INTERNATIONAL Guard

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Racists force **Becker** to leave Germany

Saturday December 21 1996

ian Traynor in Bonn

ENNIS ster Boris Becker is planning to emigrate from Germany, probably to the United States, because of persistent racial harasshis black wife and infant

In a television interview to be screened tomorrow evening in Germany, the world number two reveals that his wife Barbara and son Nosh, aged three, are under 24-hour protection because of telephone threats and racial abuse.

On a recent trip to the doctor's in Munich, Mrs Becker and her son were escorted by three bodyguards. According to Bild news-paper yesterday, Becker

says in the recorded inter-view that he is not pre-pared to put Noah into a German school and intends to emigrate before his son reaches school age. Becker recently bought a £500,000 house in Florida.

His plan to emigrate and his frank indictment of German racial intolerance are certain to shock and outrage many and hugely embarrass the German

Becker was halled as Germany's prodigal son when he returned from tax exile in Monaco in 1994 to live at home and pay the price in heavy taxation. Since then he has earned huge admiration and sympathy as a straight-talking but fair

He was in Florida yester-

The star also makes clear in the interview that he is desperate to have more children, but apparently not in Germany. If he was granted seven wishes, he says, the first six would be and tax investigation were to have apparently the believed in the says, the first six would be and tax investigation were not thought to be linked.

The star also makes clear scandal centring on during that period Becker sernings.

Steffi successfully pleaded that she knew nothing of her own financial affairs. Mr Graf descipation and tax investigation were not thought to be linked.

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10 P1:



day and could not be Boris Becker, whose black wife and son required bodygnards for a recent trip to the doctor's PHOTOGRAPH AFGEN INSENSOFF

says, the first six would be to have another child, the seventh to win Wimbledon again.

Meanwhile, speculation Meanwhile, speculation grew about a possible tax

The issues of emigration burning the summer, clared on the opening day of the court case that he world's top woman player, of the court case that he world's top woman player, of the court case that he was entirely responsible in Mannheim in southern for her finances.

Meanwhile, speculation grew about a possible tax

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Mannheim in southern for her finances.

Many of the highest-earning the taxman out of ling German sports stars, the trip unprofitable.

as have pop stars and tele-vision celebrities.

The singer Michael Jack-son dropped the German leg of his world tour earlier this year, claiming that the tax payable would render

Fierce rebuke over failure to invest

Railtrack hoards £700m

tenance, but the company cannot spend all the money at once. If we carried out all the

creased by £100 million since

Railtrack also agreed that

the large accrual figure would

pany's overall profit. But it

Keith Harper Transport Editor

AILTRACK, the privatised monopoly that runs the country's track and signight severely reprimanded by the railway watchdog and told to put its house in order within a month after failing to invest 2709 million of government money in Britain's

crumbling rail system.
In an unusually outspoken rebuke, John Swift, the rail regulator, warned Railtrack's chairman, Robert Horton, that the current level of underspend was "totally un-acceptable". He demanded that Railtrack plough the cash back into the industry immediately.

When the issue was raised yesterday by the pressure group Save Our Railways, an underspend figure of £330 million was mentioned. But later mitted that the high account fluor was not satisfactory, that tough times lie ahead for underspend was more than double that, and that its and that the amount had in new powers that will be as underspend was more than double that, and that its annual accounts showed an accrual on maintenance of

£709 million. The investment warning follows a series of reprimands for privatised utilities over levels of investment. The elechave contributed to the comtricity regulator is studying his industry's investment re-cord and last week the water watchdog hit out at compa-

nies over their spending.
The accrued funds, which were buried in the last published Railtrack accounts for

the year to the end of last March, comprise £267 million for maintenance and £442 million for property mainte-nance. A spokesman said: "This money will be spent. It has been earmarked for mainlowest accident rate for many years.
Labour reacted angrily to the revelations about Rall-

track's underspend. Andrew Smith, shadow transport sec-retary, said the fact that the company could get away with starving the railways of millions of pounds of investment showed the privatised rall set-

up was a farce.
"It is simply absurd that the excuse Railtrack comes up with is that the industry is not used to spending money." He said Railtrack was in a "privileged position of natural monopoly" and therefore had a responsibility to improve the railways.

Mr Swift has given the pri vatised company until next month to set out its investmaintenance that we need to ment programme "clearly do, we would stop the railway and unequivocally". In a letmoney had been set aside and would not be spent on anything else. The spokesman ter to Save Our Railways, he

The letter demonstrates Railtrack, partly because of new powers that will be as-sumed by the regulator in the new year. He will no longer be answerable to the Trans port Secretary, Sir George Young, and is likely to take a more independent line to pro-

rejected suggestions by the Save Our Railways campaign that the system was unsafe. tect consumers. Save Our Railways' co-ordinator, Jonathan Bray, said Although considerable Railtrack had broken the maintenance was needed, the | rules on how much it should railway inspectorate had just spend on maintenance. "It given the industry a clean bill has been caught putting professed drop in accidents and the nance second."

The Guardian Personality of the Year

This year's BBC Personally of the Year shortlet (strict) incarded John Major and a victor's wife temous only for exticient homeomorphism to be a wholly inchequate reflection of inchedual activizations in 1995. The Counties's own Personally of the Year olders washing the chance to redress the believe. Please register your choice by outing one of the remover issued before Your early and vote other.



Woman 'killed fiancé after row'

Evidence in road rage case weak and tenuous, barmaid's lawyer tells court

Ovren Bowcott

RACSY Andrews, the barmaid charged with murdering her flancé in what police initially identified as a road rage killing, had threatened a previous boyfriend with a knife — and may even have pulled a weapon on the dead man once before, a court heard

The mother of one, aged 27, is alleged to have stabled Lee Harvey, aged 25, to death in an isolated country lane less than a mile from their home in Alvechurch, Worcestershire, after an argument over a black woollen hat. She spoke only once, to confirm her name and address, when she appeared before magis-trates in Redditch, Worcestershire, to face the murder charge. She sat in the glass-panelled dock, her eyes down-cast throughout the three-hour hearing.

Kerry Moreton, prosecuting

counsel, told the court there was evidence of a history of wisience by Andrews against her fiance during their 2% year relationship. In a previ-ous attack she had hit him over the head with a bottle, punched him in the face and bit his ear while they were at

a nightclub.

Police called to the murder scene shortly before lipm on December 1 found Andrews covered almost from head to toe with blood.

Ms Moreton said Andrews had told police a vehicle over-

took them. "She said the driver got out and ... there was shouting and swearing. The passenger them got out and began to physically assmilt Mr Harvey." Andrews had later told officers she was knocked to the ground. The next thing she

remembered was seeing a fat

had not been traced and other witnesses insisted the Escort had been travelling alone. Forensic evidence showed that blood on Andrews' cloth-

ing was consistent with splashes spurting from Mr Harvey's injuries as she sev-ered arteries in his neck with a knife. A clump of hair, which matched Andrews', had been found close to her fismes's hand, and three or four similar hairs were found in his fist.

was an argument. They both got out of the car and she attacked him ... she was the person who put the knife into the victim."

Ms Moreton added: "There

The police had originally described the killing as a road rage murder, and Andrews had told a press conference that a fat man with staring eyes had stabbed her boyfriend to death.

Andrews' solicitor, Tim

Robinson, said the prosecu-tion's case was "weak and ten-nous" with a lack of evidence. man calmly walk back to an F-registered Ford Sierra which drove off.

But yesterday Ms Moreton told the court that the Sierra coming from Pakistan.



Tracey Andrews: denies murder charge

"They often rowed but always made up," said Mr Robinson. "She was deeply in love with him and he also deeply with her. He is the last person in the world she would have deliberately killed."

Mr Robinson said he had requested the lifting of reporting restrictions in the hope that publicity might prompt someone to come forward to identify the real killers. Anhad such a dark skin that he drews is to remain in prison pending a bail appeal hearing.



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Mother of three freed on appeal

Gary Younge

MOTHER of three jailed for attacking her husband's lover with a stiletto-heeled shoe collapsed in the dock yesterday after two Court of Appeal judges

senience.
Debbie Smith, 23, sobbed uncontrollably throughout the appeal hearing and then fell to the floor as Lord Justice Beldam overturned the original custodial sentence and imposed a one-year probation order instead.

Lord Justice Beldam said that most people would say that Mrs Smith was "grossly provoked". The trial judge had taken a "far too restric-

tive view of this attack".

Mrs Smith had never committed an offence before and was a "hard-working good mother and has been a good wife". The trial judge should have paid regard to the fact that Mr Smith was "the author of his own

The appeal judges said in their view the offence did not merit a custodial sentence and the trial judge should have considered what jail would mean for this "caring mother" and the children "already severely distressed by the departure of their father". Mrs Smith was failed by a judge at Manchester Crown Court last week after she attacked her best friend and former next-door neighbour, Francine French, after discovering her with her as-

The weather in Europe

Debbie Smith leaves the court clutching a photograph of one of her sons yesterday

her in a way that she took to be mocking and she had then taken one of her shoes, which

stitch in two wounds as a result of the attack but Mrs Smith had suffered more serious injuries after the struggle that followed with her husband, which left her

had been going through a rocky patch for some time be-fore the attack and Mrs

French had been one of the few people she could talk to

that Mrs Smith and gone to her brother-in-law's house and found Mrs French in her husband's T-shirt and her husband, Jeffrey Smith, coming out of the shower in the bedroom.

The French had needed a stitch in two wounds as a st

fied. The attack was unnece sary and unreasonable and it was not just one blow. That

type of sustained attack can-not be ignored."

Minister's 'victory' in fish quota deal

eries minister, emerged from prolonged talks in Brus-sels yesterday to claim vic-tory in EU negotiations to set the size of next year's catch for British fishermen, after securing a deal which will increase the amount of fish aught by 23,000 tonnes.

with the political stakes high for the Government, given its dependence on Uister Unionist support, Mr Baldry claimed European Commission provinced to care sion proposals to cut

catches of some species had been significantly reduced.

"We have achieved all we could have wished ... Every part of the UK fishing fleet has a reason to feel their objectives have been met."

The commission officials But commission officials immediately warned the Government against its "football supporters" mentality, point-ing out that it had been possible to relax quotas after a good year for the preserva-tion of stocks.

of member sizion.

Filippo di Roblam, spokesman for the Italian fisheries
commissioner, Emma Bonino, said: "We should not talk
like some ministers of being
victorious. The fisheries council is not the equivalent of a football match."

Mrs Benine collapsed with fatigue at the end of the 16-hour negotiating round, which culminated after an all-

which columnated such an au-night session.
For Britain, the cutcome meant that aithough there will be reductions in the catch of North Sea sole, the cut has been scaled back from 40 per cent to 20.

A 35 per cent reduction in the cod catch in the English Channel remains, and al-

though the catch of haddock to be allowed off the west coast of Scotland is reduced by 10 per cent rather than the 25 per cent the commis-sion had proposed - elsewhere in western waters the haddock catch will be allowed The commission, which has haddock catch will be allowed Northern Ireland industry is been anxious to cut the to rise by up to 120 per cent. I producing. The fishermen are amount of fish being caught | But Gavin Strang, Labour's | going to suffer once again."

drastically to conserve stocks, backed away from proposing said there were two vital observer reductions in many areas after a bruising year of confrontation with a number.

Gratically to conserve stocks, fishing industry spokesman, said there were two vital observer reductions in many accordance in the stock of the British fishing communities and the conservation of stocks. "Judged against these crucial objectives. Tony Baidry's description of last night's deal as a triumph is clearly unjustified."

The immediate reaction from fishing organisations

The immediate reaction from fishing organisations was one of begrudging acceptance, although the Ulster Unionists claimed they had won improved catches for their fishermen following their agreement to shataln and help the Government in last Monday's fishing delate vote in the Commons.

Barrie Deas, of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said: "It depends where you fish and what you fish for, but the minister started from a difficult negotiating position and the overall outcome is OK."

the overall outcome is OK." But Paul Leeman, chairman of the Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Association, remained dissatisfied. This is disastrous in terms of what the

Retrial of teenager ordered in Leah Betts case

Alan Watkins

A YOUNG man accused of being involved in the sup-ply of the ecstasy tablet which killed Leah Betts will face a re-trial next year, a court de-cided yesterday. Steven Pack-man, aged 18, of Leindon, Raser, will stand trial in Februsry at Norwich crown court.

during an 18th birthday party involved, at her home. A jury falled to Mr Ju reach a verdict this week after had been a seven-day trial of the case. Stephen Smith, aged 15, of Basildon, Essex, was given a two-year conditional discharge yesterially after admitting the offence. The judge said the management of the nightchub where the ecstasy tablet was bought had a greater responsibility for subsequent events.

Mr Justice Kay said there had been "wifful blindness" among the staff of Raquel's night club in Basildon. The apcriminal record as head of security demonstrated how little-effort had been made to stop

drug sales.

The judge told Smith to go back to the community and

9 **°**7 A CONTRACTOR LOW Key HIGH Overcast . G Hail Cold front Sunshine and - Warm front showers Sleet A Thunder Occluded front . Snow · · · · Trough

Forecast for the cities

Around the world

Switzswitzwit:

A ridge of high pressure will keep most of northern Germany and the Law Countries day, but it will be very cold with a few snow flurries here, and there. Southern Germany and Austria will be dull and cold with outbrasis of mainly light snow, while Switzerland will have rain on low ground and snow over the mountains. Max temp ranging from 7C in southern Switzerland to -SC in sestem Germany. Prasses

Very cold and windy to the north and east of Paris with light nain or snow. Essewhere the milder weather will hold on with some rain and extensive mist. Max temp ranging from near zero in the far north-east to 14C on the Mediterranean coast.

mist. Max temp ranging from near zero in the far north-cast to 14C or the Mediterranean coast.

Speak and Purtugate
Remaining very unsettled with a plenty of cloud, showers and some longer periods of rain in most places. The best of any sumy breaks will be in the extreme south-east. Max temp 10-18C, leading.

Becoming very wet over northern taly with some more snow for the Alpe and Dotomine, but from Rome southwards it should be fair and pleasantly mild. Max temp 6C in the north-east to 19C or Solity.

Greece:

The mostly dry and bright weather should continue with reasponable spells of winter suretime, eithough the far rooth may have some rain later.

Max temp 14-19C.

Television and radio — Saturday

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Television and radio — Sunday

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Sky Movies

7-Aug 7-20 Fight Of The Dovet, 8-00 Best Shot, 11.00 Sweet Tailor, 1.00 A Christmas Romance, 3.00 The Firststones, 6.00 The Firststones, 6.00 The Bolder, 7-00 Mindle On 34th Street, 8-00 The Firststones, 11.00 Carumstance Unicover, 12.35 The Movie Show, 1.05 William Manufacture, 21.00 Carumstance, 21.00 Carumstance,

Sky Movies Gold

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UK Gold

MBC Superchannel

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9.00 Lishusin. 10.00 Nobel Peace Prins
Special. 11.00 Super Stop. 12.00 Scoope
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1.00 Inside the PGA Tour. 1.30 Inside the
SPGA Your. 2.00 The EMC (Gott) Skills
Challenge. 3.00 NCAA Beatested. 4.00
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Press. 5.30 How to Succeed in Plantees.
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7.00 Chickers in Westington. 8.00
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The Best of The Seins Scott Show. 4.00
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The Best of The Seins Scott Show. 4.00
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E-80 Servings, 8.00 Wareiro, 7.00 He Conquered Opicos, 8.00 Grossburters II. 8.30 Arthur C Clariar's Mysserious Universe, 8.00 Showcase Introduction: Hostoga, 9.01 Water, The Intake Story, 10.00 The Singebusium, 11.00 Justice Fiss, 12.00 The Professionals, 10.0 Justice Fiss, 2.00 Trailblusses, 3.00 Closs.



'One mistake can be very serious. And the fact is that there appear to be an awful lot of mistakes' Julie Luscombe's

'In the past, these things would have been dealt with quietly. Now we have aggressive and public litigation' Brian Milstead.

'There will always be human error in hospital'

Stuart Millar assesses the claims and counter claims after a series of hospital incidents shakes a Cornish community

marker placed by a radio-

ally worked its way out of Ben's body and was found by

was reprimanded and placed on a six-month probation

in October this year, barely two months before Pamela

was given 10 times the pre-

scribed dose of morphine

while undergoing a hernia op-eration at Treliske.

notorious hospital in the country after a series of high-profile medical errors which have included a hypodermic needle being left inside a baby and a

accidentally given a drug nor-mally used for treating men, wih prostate problems when she was taken to hospital suffering from stomach pains. Pamela Graham, aged 33, who is expecting her third child, was given Tamsulosin when she asked for folic ackd, a vitamin supplement often taken by expectant mothers. At most other hospitals.

this might have been regarded as an isolated incident and passed without comment. But it only served to underline the growing per-ception that there are deep-rooted problems at Treliske which cannot simply be written off as human error.

The hospital became the focus of intense criticism when part of a hypodermic mistake was the final straw. needle was left inside baby in the face of fierce public Ben Jones, who was born six criticism over this catalogue.

it," said Geoff Poxon, the council's chief officer. "We remain confident that stan

review of some of the major procedures by somebody with grapher to note the position of a bruise. The needle eventustanding in our community to standing in our community to see whether the procedures are in line with what the management think are their policies and practices." At Traliske yesterday, senior managers and staff greeted the news with dismay.

tions that public confidence dix operation although she port, but we do not believe in the health care it offers has was not qualified to do so. She that it would be possible for been destroyed. The move by Cornwall community health council came ford, aged 76, was set alight after it emerged this week on an operating table and suffered burns on his back and ecutive of the Royal Community. buttocks when a spirit-based Hospitals Trust, which runs fluid ignited.

fluid ignited.

The hospital insisted that nobody had suffered serious harm in these incidents. But no different from any other major acute bospital in the country. In these specific cases, people have made mistakes, there is no denying that. But we have done every-Graham received the wrong drug, it was revealed that six-week-old Kieren Luscombe thing to make sure the lessons are learned and are sat-

While subsequent brain scans suggest that he may not have suffered any long-term "There will always be human error; that's inevitable when human beings are looking after other human bebrain damage, his parents, Paul and Julie, now face an agonising walt to see if seriagonising walt to see if seri-ous problems emerge as that whenever there is an error here, it makes national

Kieren grows up.
For the council, the latest mistake was the final straw. On the face of it, the management would appear to have a strong case.

criticism over this catalogue of errors, it had remained

Complaints

bome and told to take para cetamol. She dies the next January 1995: Andrea Jones, mother of three-week-old Ben, finds part of

takes part in an appendix early retire July 1995: Ray Rickard

complains that his wife, Gwen, 68, was left to die of cancer "without dignity in a cubicle". He commits sulcide six months later.

September 1995: Frank Ax-ford, 76, is set on fire on an operating table when a spirit-based finid ignities, causing burns to his back like a Christmas pudding," he says.

October 1996; Six-week-old Kieren Luscombe is given 10 times the correct dosage of morphine during a hernia operation. Long-term impact still unclear. December 1996: Pamela

Graham, a pregnant mother of two, is given a drug used to treat male prostate probacid, a dietary supplement

Ben Jones, who was born six weeks prematurely on Christmas Day 1994.
He was given blood, lumber puncture and swab tests when he was 10 days old, but the end of the needle broke off and was ignored by a doctor.

He was given blood, lumber the end of the needle broke off and was ignored by a doctor.

This sentiment was backed the needle broke off against this backdrop.

This sentiment was backed the needle through a combination of media scaremongering suffered through a combination of media scaremongering through a combination of media scaremongering suffered through a combination of media scaremongering and a growth in the popular this hospital. Unfortunately, the way complaints are supportive of the hospital and a growth in the popular that doesn't happen, of errors, it had remained supportive of the hospital and the was backed a growth in the popular that doesn't happen, of errors, it had remained supportive of the hospital and the way complaints are supportive of the hospital and the way complaints are supportive of the hospital and the way complaints are supportive of the hospital and the way complaints are supportive of the hospital and the way complaints are supportive of the hospital and the way complaints are supportive of the hospital and a growth in the popular that doesn't happen, of errors, it had remained supportive of the hospital and a growth in the popular that doesn't happen, of errors, it had remained supportive of the hospital and a growth in the popular that doesn't happen, of errors, it had remained supportive of the hospital and a growth in the popular that doesn't happen, of errors, it had remained supportive of the hospital and a growth in the popular that doesn't happen.

This sentiment was backed by senior consultants who say the way complaints are supportive of the hospital. Unfortunately, the way complaints are supportive of the supportive of the hospital and a growth in the popular that doesn't happen.

This self-generating.

This self-generating.

This self-generating.

This self-ge



Julie Luscombe and Kieren, given 10 times too much morphine PHOTOGRAPH SAM MORGAN MOORE treated perfectly successfully at Treliske, but they cannot

tients to the hospital and the local press.

But further down the hospital ladder, there are murmur-suffered through a combina
been chief executive for three ling what we could call the US- consultant, said: "It is now style of aggressive and public getting to a stage where it's litigation, and this publicity is self-generating."

them look bad, that they are the victims," said Julie Lus-combe. "It is not them who have to live with the worry that their baby may have been permanently damaged watched their baby nearly die because of somebody's

She is now pursuing a claim against Treliske for both Kieren's ordeal and the trauma it caused her and her husband. Her solicitor, Philip Snell, is equally dismissive. His desk is laden with dozens of medical negligence claims he is pursuing against the ho-pital. "It may well be that the they do a very good job. But because of the nature of their work, one mistake can be very serious. And the fact is that there appear to be an awful lot of mistakes."

Pamela Graham yesterday welcomed the call for an inquiry. According to Adrian Hicknall, a medical injuries specialist she consulted, the family has never been interested in receiving compensation. Their only concern has been to find out how this mistake happened and to make sure it is not allowed to hap-

Mr Hicknall, who is also a member of the community health council, believes that agreeing to an independent inquiry is the only way the hospital will be able to change its fortunes. "I accept that be offered up as an excuse for treating anybody badly. There have been many highprofile cases and this has now become a vicious circle. The

Rifkind accuses China of treaty breach | Sagan, man who brought

Plan to scrap Hong Kong elected legislature provokes thinly veiled threats from Britain

Cials described as a "robust" statement of the British position. Mr Jiang said Britain should "face reality".

Mr Rifkind hinted heavily ment with special reference to black, dark day for Hong

ian Black in London and Andrew Higgins In Hong Kong

RITAIN yesterday issued an unprece-dented public condem-nation of Chinese plans to scrap Hong Kong's elected ming with veiled legislature as protesters in takable threats. the colony hurled eggs at coaches ferrying pro-Beijing stalwarts to China to set up a rival "provisional" assembly.

Caratic inreats.

The Chinese ambassador to Britain, Jiang Enzhu, was summoned by Mr Rifkind late ty of an appeal to the internatival "provisional" assembly.

breaching its treaty obliga-tions. There is no justifica-Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, in a statement brim-ming with veiled but unmis-

China was accused of at wider pressure on Beljing. "We will work closely with the United States, the Euro-pean Union and other intertion for China to replace a legislature elected openly and fairly by more than 1 million Hong Kong people," said the China China and ther international partners in monitoring observance of provisions of the joint declaration in Hong Kong," he said. Hong Kong," he said.

The US has made it clear that, in its view, the provi-sional legislature is "unwise,

human rights. These would be available to United Nations treaty-monitoring bodies. Today's naming of the pro-visional legislature will give Hong Kong two rival law-making bodies, as well as two rival sources of executive authority: the governor, Chris Patten, and his China-appointed successor, shipping magnate Tung Chee-bwa. Fearful of prosecution by

British authorities, who con-sider the new legislature to be

"Tomorrow will be a very black, dark day for Hong Kong," said Emily Lau, a member of a legislature elected in September but Which China plans to disband.
Mr Rifkind accused China of violating the 1984 Joint Declaration, a Sino-British

accord that was referred to pointedly as "binding".

"A body chosen by a hand-picked 'electorate' of 400 is not, in any reasonable sense, a legislature constituted by elections', as required by the Joint Declaration," the statement went on. China claims Britain is to blame because it went ahead

that has enraged Beijing.

with political reforms in the colony in 1992 without the consent of Beijing, a step which it says violated the accord. Beijing yesterday underlined its disdain for foreign icant discoveries. These in-cluded showing that the surcriticism with an announcement that Hollywood stars who had challenged China's policies in Tibet would be barred from the region. These face of Venus is too hot to

of pneumonia at Seattle's | Fred Hutchinson cancer

research centre. After arguing for years that there was a strong probability that life existed elsewhere in the universe, he was thrilled when Nasa scientists claimed earlier this year that they had discovered evidence of life in a meteorite from Mars.

"It has to be one of the 10 most important discoveries in the history of the human race," he said. "This discovery serves to increase my sense of the magnificence of the universe."

Sagan, who was born in New York, taught astronomy at Harvard in the 1960s before moving to Cornell University in 1968 to establish a laboramissions to other planets.



Carl Sagan . . . fbillions and

stand up to sceptical scru-tiny," he said recently. He won the Pulitzer Prize tory for planetary studies. He helped design experiments for literature in 1978 for The Nasa and studied data from Dragons of Eden: Speculamissions to other planets.

A sworn enemy of "pseudoscientists" — believers in

panion book for his television UFOs and paranormal phenomena — he was a confirmed atheist. "I would lose list."



During the course of the evening, the invisible connection between the crime rate and the tax rate becomes apparent. Tax rates are crime rates - records of thefts committed by the IRS against the vulnerably affluent.

The Week, page 15

Cosmos to earth, dies

ian Katz in New York

ARL SAGAN, the relentlessly enthusiastic American astronomer who spent much of his life attempting to convince his fellow terrestrials that we are not alone in the universe, died in Seattle yesterday after a two-year battle with cancer. Sagan, who was aged 62, was best known for presenting the 1980 television series Cosmos, which awakened a generation to the mystery of life's origins and established

the carchphrase "billions and billions of stars". Though he was most celebrated for popularising esoteric scientific ideas, he was also a dedicated researcher, responsible for several signif-

support life. Sagan last year received a Scorsese, who is making a film about the Dalai Lama that has enraged Betting

form of cancer known as pre-leukemia syndrome. He died belief system that did not Obituary, page 7

Ken's sounds

Cottontail: The Duke

Ellington Orchestra.

Potato Head Blues:

the Hot Five.

Quintet.

Navarro.

Holiday.

Now's the Time: Charlie Parker

Double Talk: Fats

Lover Man: Billie

In Walked Bud: Art

Blakey and the Jazz

Marsalis brothers). Rhythm-a-ning: Thelonius Monk. Saturday Night at the

Better Git it in Your

Messengers : (featuring the

Cosmos: George Adams and Don Pullen Quintet.

Soul: Charles Mingus.

Louis Armstrong and

News in brief

Youth guilty of knife attack

A TEENAGE gang member was warned by a judge he faced "many years in jail" after he was found guilty yesterday of a near-fatal attack on the husband of Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions.

The 17-year-old youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons, "victously" stabbed John Mills, aged 58, between the ribs with a butterfly knife in May last year, Knightsbridge

crown court in west London was told.

Pouring with blood, he staggered the 100 yards to his front door where he collapsed into the arms of his wife. He could have died but for emergency surgery. The youth was convicted of grievous bodily harm, and also of robbing Mr Mills of credit cards and cash. He was remanded into custody for a pre-

The alleged gang leader, Edwardo de la Cruz, aged 18, was cleared by the jury of the same two charges.

Dockers reject 'final' offer

A MASS meeting of Liverpool dockers yesterday unanimously rejected an "ultimate closing offer" from the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, a £28,000 severance payment and improved pension for each of the 329 men fired for not crossing a picket line 15 months ago, or the chance to apply for up to 40 jobs.

The dockers insisted they could not organise a secret ballot, as called for by the company, before its deadline of December 31.

The offer was put to a meeting at the TGWU union offices Liverpool, also attended by 30 men locked out by private stavedores Torside Lid, which began the dispute. Jimmy Nolan, chairman of shop stewards, said: "After 2½ hours of discussion with the labour force we have decided to reject the proposal. We will continue with our campaign for reinstatement." He also announced an international stoppage in their support on January 20.

Seumos Milne Sermas Milne

Police to contest damages

SOUTH Yorkshire police intend to contest a \$200,000 damages award granted last week to the half-brother of a man who died in the Hillsborough disaster. The insurers for the force yesterday lodged an appeal against a High Court ruling that John McCarthy, aged 35, should be compensated for post-transatic stress disorder following the 1989 FA Cup semi-final, in which 96 people were

As well as appealing, the police are asking for a stay of judgment until the action is heard. If granted, it will mean no money being released until the end of the proceedings, which could take over a year. - Peter Hetherington

Break for terrorists

MORE THAN 100 terrorists will be released from Northern Ireland's jalls to spend Christmas with their families, the Govern-ment announced last night. A total of 62 republicans and 47 loyalists will be freed from the Maze prison on Monday to spend etween seven and 10 days with their families.

Inmates have to have served a minimum of 11 years or be under consideration for release. The release system has operated and en honoured for a number of years.

Jail for 'record' driver

A MOTORIST who in 1994 was credited with having set the record of 153mph for a speeding offence was jailed for four months yesterday for driving while still banned for the speeding offence.

Achille Mazzotta, a builder, aged 32, of Swindon, Willishire, was also banned for a total of two years by Swindon magistrates after he admitted driving while disqualified and without insurance.

PC Nigel Brown

AN article which appeared in the Guardian February 10 1992 entitled "Jewish officer ready to quit Met over anti-S reported allegations made by PC Nigel Brown that he had been forced to leave the Metropolitan Police Force as a result of his colleagues' anti-Semitic behaviour. The Guardian accepts that the allegations are false and that the report, based on a report from a news agency, shocked and hurt Mr Brown's colleagues. The Guardian has agreed to pay damages plus court costs to the

Correction

BATH University, which achieved one of the biggest improve-ments in research ratings in the funding councils' 1996 assessment exercise, and Royal Hollowsy College, University of London, which also did well, were omitted from yesterday's table of top universities. Bath (65 per cent of staff in grade 5 and 5" departments) comes 6th and Royal Holloway (46 per cent) joint

Miracles, television, **Nigel Slater** in the kitchen, chocolates, toys...and an old man with a beard

> Life's guide to the perfect Christmas

Late night habits of the young Ken Clarke, and all that modern

azz

ORGET the Spice Giris praising Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair



Boxing Day programme on Jazz FM, which broadcasts to London and the North-west.

Thatcher and Tony Blair resurrecting Ezio: now it's the turn of the heavyweights.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, includes Charlie Mingua, Theresurrecting Ezio: now it's the turn of the heavyweights.
The Chancellor of the Ex-

His early years in the Commons left him with more time to include his enthusiasm for jazz.
"When I was a bit younger

office the next morning."

When he is away from home he still has time to stay up late. "When I'm abroad I still go to jazz chubs because when I was a on youngar, with the House of Commons there are no red boxes and I to play Charlie Parker's packing up at 10 o'clock, it was a great time to move on to Ronnie Scott's, stay there is as "a cheery way of hav-

lonius Monk and Charlie | again, to see if there are still | till the end — two o'clock in | ing a drink and meeting | Git It In Your Soul by Charles |
Parker in his list of musical | any late-night people in London." | till the end — two o'clock in | ing a drink and meeting | Git It In Your Soul by Charles |
Mingus. | His enthusiasm for jazz has |
Boxing Day programms on | His early ways in the Court |
His early ways in the Court | Court |
His early ways in the Court |
His early w Louis Armstrong's Potato Head Blues, which he de-

scribes as a great classic.
"Tm a modernist really," says the Chancellor, going on

been well documented, al-though his choice of music is very different to the eight re-cords he selected for Desert Island Discs in 1994. Then, his selection included the Beaties' Taxman and Fixing A. Hole, and political pointers such as I Will Survive.

Andre

Pe

Say



Departure points up growing doubts on financial viability

Dan Glaister

HE political in fight ing surrounding the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition in-tensified yesterday when Barry Hartop, chief executive of Millennium Central, the operating company for the celebrations, stood down. It is understood that Jennifar Page, chief executive of the Millennium Commission, the body that distributes lot-

projects, will replace Mr Har-top. Commission sources said this could not be confirmed until the exhibition was given the go-shead, possibly in the new year. The exhibition will not

receive final approval, how-ever, until doubts about its fi-nancial viability have been laid to rest. The private sector and the Opposition have exsed concern that the busipressed concern that the busi-ness plan is unrealistic. Although Mr Hartop was ap-

Development Agency, he had said he expected to see the project through to completion.

Westminster sources were last night hinting that the

agency was unwilling to take Mr Hartop — whose salary at Millennium Central was paid by British Airways — back into its employment. In a further development, emerged that the original plan to run the exhibition as a

private sector partnership as been abandoned. It is now thought it will run as a public sector project, with one share held by a minister, probably, known to oppose any exter-

pointed to Millennium Central | Roger Freeman, Chancellor of | sion of the commission's life. | until we see a reasonable bud-only on a three-month | the Duchy of Lancaster. The | He said yesterday: "There | get we're not going to commit secondment from the Welsh | change is designed to enable | cannot be unlimited access to | ourselves." the Government to use National Lottery money through the commission to

underwrite the project.
Michael Heseltine, who spearheaded government efforts to raise private funds for the project, said on Wednesday that an order would be placed before Parliament extending the life of the Millennium Commission by two years. This would enable it to continue to fund the exhibition with Lottery money. But Labour's heritage spokes-man, Jack Cumingham, is

lottery money. Virginia Bottomley, the

National Heritage Secretary, had hoped to announce changes to the project's busi-hess structure before Parlia-ment broke up for Christmas. But Mr Cunningham refused But Mr Cunningham refused to agree to a statement that she proposed to make to the

"Our position is about the only thing that has remained constant," he said last night. "We have always supported the idea of a millennium exhibition, we have supported the idea of a Greenwich site. But

It is the latest in a series of blows to the celebrations. Doubt was cast on the viability of the exhibition two weeks ago when Mr Cunning-ham said that a Labour government would not un write the project with a blank cheque. Mr Cunningham has expressed fears that the cost, originally put at \$500 million, could be \$1 billion.

Sources at Millennium Central yesterday admitted there was only one month in which to alter the scheme before placed with suppliers.

Dahling, these cucumber sandwiches are really a bit thick

lan Katz in New York

ICHARL Gambon glanced disapprov-ingly at his tea cup. "Can you imagine? Jas-mine tea in lukewarm

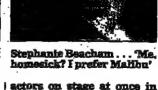
Player's Club, the dozen or so British thespians gath-ered for "an old-fashioned English tea" surveyed the nibbles — Danish pastries, petits fours and inch-thick cucumber sandwiches with equal distaste.

water without any milk!"

Around the Sargent they are trying," said Jhn Room of New York's stately Dale, who came to New



York in 1979 to play P.T. Barnum and never left. The invitations explained that the tea, hosted by the club and the cast of Sir Peter Hall's production of An Ideal Husband, was to celebrate the holiday season and the fact that "possi-bly there have never been



actors on stage at once in New York". "There's a lot of fear and dread of us because there's hardly any work for American actors," said Nicky Henson, who plays Lord Goring in the Oscar Wilde play. The list of West End

Wasteland) and David Threlfall (The Rehearsal). The guests at the tea were described as "homesick Brits of Broadway" but not all appeared to share the sentiment. "I miss Malibu terribly," said Stephanie Bescham, best known for her role as Dynasty's Sable Colby. "I miss palm trees

and surfer dudes."
Like Mr Gambon, Ms
Paige and Ms Shaw, Ms Beacham (appearing in An Ideal Husband) is making her Broadway debut, though she seems under-whelmed by the experience.

"I had to do it because you have to tick it off. Broadway is Broadway. But, hon-estly, it could be Leicester." heavyweights on Broadway Tea was served under includes Mr Gambon (in John Sargent's portrait of

David Hare's Skylight), Edwin Booth, the 19th cen-Elsine Paiga (Sunset Boule- tory American actor who vard), Fiona Shaw (The founded the Player's Club to Wasteland) and David emulate London's Garrick. Nibbling a cucumber sand-

wich — "much too thick" — Ms Paige said she missed English TV and world news. In the US, "they don't have any interest in anywhere else".

She enjoyed playing to Broadway sudiences, how-ever. "They're more volatile than in the West End and not afraid of showing their emotions. They let out shrieks, which a British au-

dience would never do."
As the Sargent Room echoed to perfectly enunci-ated "dahlings", Daniel Ger-roll, who moved to New York in the early 1980s, said: This is a picture postcard view of being English. I hope they don't think this is how I lived in Belsize Park."

Millionaire's daughter put suffocated body in freezer while suffering from depression

Mother who killed baby is given probation

was yesterday put on proba-tion for three years after pleading guilty to infanticide. Emma Gifford, 22, daughter of retired Rank Organisation chief executive Michael Gif-ford, killed the baby hours after giving birth in secret at her flat in South Kensington, London, the Old Bailey was told. She then went to work in a florist and later placed the body in a freezer.

Passing sentence, the Recorder of London, Sir Law-rence Verney, said: "In a sination such as this the law does not wish to punish. The law wishes to help because help is still required. "The circumstances of this birth could not have been

more lonely for you and what occurred immediately afterwards, although it must of course cause you great remorse and does I am sure, is not something which should be allowed to cloud your life for the whole of the

The court heard Ms Gifford had suffered from depression since the age of 13, after an unhappy childhood caught between an alcoholic mother and an absent father. She confessed to police on September 18 this year, five months after

HE daughter of a millionaire businessman sympathy to Ms Cifford's "tragic" predicament. A head of her new-born son yesterday put on proba-"singular and extreme case" highlighted the isolation and vulnerability young women can feel in an unplanned baby fell asle pregnancy.

"The case does emphasise the need to make sure that

young people know there are agencies designed to listen ageintes designed to listen and provide support in this kind of situation."

Alison Hadley, a spokes-woman for Brook Advisory

'Case emphasises need to make sure young know of agencies to help'

traception and counselling to young people, said: "This is clearly a truly tragic case. It must be horrendous to give birth alone."

The court heard that Ms Gifford told nobody about the baby until her brother found the body days after the death. William Boyce, prosecuting said Ms Gifford, from Ash-ford, Kent, had suffered the trauma of giving up for adop-tion a first child, born just 14

She gave birth in the bath-room of her flat early on April 6. The baby appeared to be coughing and not very well. She took him into the living him, before both she and the oaby fell asleep.

Traumatised, she azonised

over her fature with the secret haby until 5pm the next day when she was due to

Mr Boyce said: "She felt as though she had no option. She didn't know what to do.
"So she placed a flaunel,
which she had used to clean the child, over his face and put a pair of her boyfriend's pyjama bottoms over his head, and covered his head with a pillow for a couple of ninutes and then went away and was physically sick."

Ms Gifford then dressed and went to work. When she returned she removed the

She then rang her brother Kristopher, who came to col-lect her "and unknowingly the child because she had it with her" and drove her to the family home in Kent for the night. The next day she returned to the flat, which her father had provided for her, and placed the child's

Police had found insuffi-cient evidence on the cause of death to bring charges of in-fanticide against Ms Gifford before her full confession.



Emma Gifford leaving the Old Bailey: 'She didn't know what to do' PHOTOGRAPH STEFAN ROUSEAN



Bets are off as triads hit Macao

Andrew Higgins reports on a shooting which has thrown the usually peaceful Portuguese colony into a state of turmoil

ambique, Lt-Col Manuel Antonio Apolinario, took two bullets in the head at the wheel of a new office car parked be-tween trees strung with Christmas lights. He was shot at pointblank

range with a People's Liberation Army-issue handgun — the third person in less than a week gunned down by motorcycle hitmen in Europe's oldest Asian outpost.
A tiny Portuguese enclave

across the Pearl River delta from Hong Kong, Macao is usually described as a sleepy, gambling haven on the coast

dangerous, as the fly-blown charm of casinos and clubs sinister. Col Apolinario was shot on the Praia Grande, a once elegant boulevard which the scars of a fizzled economic boom

He had just knocked off work at Macao's Gambling In-spection and Co-ordination chopped off his right hand Directorate, housed on the 18th floor of a grubby tower block shared with the Mona Lisa Sauna and Lost City

"On paper the Portuguese do not give up control of ering under police protection

SURVIVOR of Por- Macao to China until 1999 but tugal's vicious co-lonial war in Mo- lost control to the triada," said Ng Kuok-cheung, a social worker and sole voice of dissent in a docile legislature. "Hundreds of millions of dol-

> are no longer afraid of anything."
>
> It is all a long way from the Macao of folklore and post-cards, where gold-toothed pensioners pump coins into rickety one-armed bandits.
> The real money, and much of
> the trouble, now lies elsewhere — in "junket tours"
> and "VIP rooms" reserved in for hardcore high-rollers

from Taiwan, Thailand and further afield on all-expenses-

lars are at stake. The gangs know the police have lost con-

trol. It is very simple: they

paid, all-needs-met, gambling blow-outs. Many end up at the Lisboa Hotel Casino, a rambling con-crete complex whose architecture combines the aesthetics of a public toilet with the spithat attackers recently am-

and scalped him. Since the start of the year Macao has suffered 14 bomb ings and a string of brutal attacks. By a fluke, Col Apo-linario survived and is recovat a hilltop hospital overlook-ing Macao's main gambling district. The first bullet tore through his cheek and ripped a hole in his jaw. A second missed his spinal chord by millimetres.

"They wanted to kill me. It is impossible to find out who did it, but I want to find out why," he told a friend in hospital last week. "Why did someone not come and talk to me first? In the past they al-ways came to talk." As head of Macao's police

intelligence during the 1980s, he had frequent contact with a brutal but structured criminal underworld. Today, the

old rules no longer apply.
"Macao City of Fear, The
Peace is Finished," screamed the local Portuguese language tabloid, Macau Hoje. Less alarmist but perhaps more alarming was a statement by the Xinhua news agency, China's de facto embassy. Usually content to applaud Portu-gal for not copying Britain's Chris Patten, Xinhua said the mayhem could upset the tran-sition and demanded tough

Ryen mobsters have voiced outrage. The day after Col Apolinario was shot, the edikiness of a nasty virus. It was tor of Macau-Hoje, Joso Se-outside this establishment verino, received a telephone tor of Macau-Hoje, Joso Sebeach hotel; the mob wanter to tell its side of the story.

"Everyone was blaming the secret societies and they were very upset," said Mr Severino. He was met by two reputed godfathers and the representative of another group. They denied ordering



the previous day's hit. As a gesture of good faith, they offered to cut off their finger-tips. Mr Severino said this rould not be necessary.

"Whenever you have casinos, you have an underworld. Where there is money there are triads," said Luis Alfonso, a prominent local lawyer. "But Macao used to be a quiet place. There was an internal balance among the triads. Now this balance has been

destroyed." Helping to disrupt the equilibrium is a plunge in property prices and an influx of hoods from Taiwan, Hong Kong and China — just five minutes by taxi from the centre of Macao. Many date the start of Macao's crime wave to the opening last December of an international airport. The imminent return of nearby Hong Kong to China has added to Macao's allure as a sauctuary for criminals. Out-of-town mobsters are not the only newcomers. To beef up security, Macao's monopoly casino operator, STDM, has recruited Gurkhas — Nepalese fighters of legend-

The assassination attempt | ismo e Diversoes de Macao, | istration, staffed with veteragainst Col Apolinario was the most serious attack against a senior Portuguese official in Macao since the murder in 1849 of the then governor, Joao Ferreira do Amaral. He was beheaded after expelling Chinese cus-

Col Apolinario's misfortune could also be part of a bigger

chise to Macao's gambling in-dustry since 1962 and last year contributed nearly £400 million in taxes. But it is no longer seen as invincible: its monopoly comes up for renewal in 2001. The proliferation of VIP rooms to service junket gamblers -- who now account for

has held an exlusive fran-

'Hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake. The gangs know the police have lost control. It is simple: they are no longer afraid'

game. As Macao prepares to I wall over half of all revenue return to China in 1999, loan- - has already loosened its sharks and pimps are not the

by the State Security Bureau. When STDM, the casino conglomerate, rebuffed business overtures from the Chinese company, a bomb went off outside a hotel over which it STDM, or Sociedade de Tur-

grip. It provides croupiers only people eager to mark out their territory.

Among those muscling in is a mainland Chinese firm run take it for granted that if there is violence it must be related to casinos. This is just speculation," said Louis Ng of STDM. "We are just a com-

> something to stop all this." Macao's Portuguese admin

ans of Portugal's colonial fiascoes in Africa and known more for long lunches than long-term planning, has retreated into a bunker of shell-shocked silence. Portuguese here think they are still in the jungle in Africa dealing with Pygmies,' said one veteran resident.

It took a lunchtime murder outside police headquarters to stir the authorities into action. Macao's two separate and often feuding forces, the Judiciary Police and the Public Security Police, were or-dered to form joint armed patrols of casinos.

Promises from China of se-

clons of a disguised early takeover. "Who gets advantage from all this violence? Who would benefit most from come to terms with what has having people say that the happened. "There was a gen-Portuguese police are not up to the job?" asked one official. When China takes over Macao in 1999 it will face few of the difficulties it will confront in Hong Kong when mercial entity. We really Britain pulls down the flag hope the authorities can do next summer: a hostile legislature, a Chinese political The boundary has been elite, a boisterous media.

But it does have one big worry. As soon as Britain pulls out of Hong Kong, the People's Liberation Army marches in to take the of British troops. In Macao however, there are no Portuthere any provision in any of the agreements between China and Portugal for a Chinese military or security presence after 1999.

rested in possible connection with the attack on Col Apolinarlo is a shadowy concert organiser known across Macao as "Broken Teeth". He was picked up for violating a ca-Promises from China of se-curity co-operation have aroused Portuguese suspi-published shortly before the assassination attempt

As Col Apolinario recuper ates, Macao is still trying to tleman's agreement. The Portuguese were on one side and the Chinese were on the other. Each lived in their own world. There was contact but fonso, the lawyer. "The Apolinario case has changed this.

Penny drops in Albania as savings scam collapses

Joanna Robertson in Tirana

UNDREDS of thousands of Albanians will be left penniless by a pyramid savings scam collapse in Tirana last Crowds clashed with

police on Thursday, after the woman behind the fraud, known only as Sudja, failed to make the huge promised interest payments to savers. Families besieged her offices again yesterday. Sudja, an Albanian gypsy

and former shoe factory worker, tempted hundreds ands of Albanians to give her their life sav-ings by offering 50 per cent interest. The pyramid scheme used new savers' deposits to pay the interest. In the less developed post-

communist countries of eastern Europe, such as Russia and Romania, such scams have ruined millions of naive savers. Now a size | ernment used it to pay for

Reuter in Ankara

URKEY'S Islamist

prime minister, Necmet-tin Erbakan, said yes-

terday the country's casinos

would be closed and a public lottery discontinued because

of concerns about their de-

moralising effect on Turkish

to every corner of Turkey like

an illness," Mr Erbakan said

before a cabinet meeting at

which the future of the gam-ing industry was expected to

The tourism ministry has been considering proposals to sinos exclude Turks from gaming areas

They have begun to spread

able number of the 3 million | the elections. At least in people in Albania, the poorest country in Europe, are to demonstrate." est country in Europe, are about to become poorer still. Sudja has falled to make payments for more than three weeks. Families marched from Sudya's office to Tirana's central Skanderbeg Square on Thursday to protest at the government's failure to intervene, but police beat

people were detained.
"The police helped Sudja when we gave her our money. Now, when we try to take it, they only beat us," wept an old woman who was clutching a deposit slip.

them back. At least four

Sudja, claiming she needed time to do her accounts, promised to reopen her office on Wednes this week. On Thursday, when the office stayed shut, furious men smashed the windows and tried to tear down the iron bars.

One man said: "There is no money because the gov-

Turkey to close casinos

Government pressure for

complete closure appeared to be gathering earlier this week

when Tansu Ciller, the for-

eign minister, said she

wanted the country's 76 casi-

The current initiative is the

culmination of a series of

restrictions on opening hours

and dress imposed by the Is-lamist-led government since

coming to power in June. It has had limited success in im-

posing a previous order to ex-

Tourism ministry officials say work on plans to limit ca-

sinos to three designated

clude Turks from casinos.

the sector entirely.

nos shut down.

establishments or to outlaw the initiative. An island near the sector entirely.

Flanked by police, Sudja finally leaned out of a fifth-Copenhagen airport.
The jury also convicted a floor window and told the crowd to be patient. She added that if she was

Twenty people received a partial repayment after the demonstration. One said she would immediately reinvest it in one of the

harmed, no one would get

their money.

eight other crooked schemes in operation. Tension remains high, with most people blaming the government for the col-lapse of the company. Carlos Elbirt, the World

Bank's representative in know of another country been invested in pyramid

The government has set up a parliamentary committee to investigate the country's nine money schemes, but its work has been kept secret.

resorts are among recom-

Gaming industry officials

have protested strongly

according to tourism minis-

Concern in government cir-

cles about the social impact of

casinos has been exacerbated

recently by media reports of

suicides and family hardship

mended locations.

try figures.

is continuing despite | linked to gambling debts.

News in brief

territory's nine casinos.

ary ferocity and dependabil-ity — to stand guard at the

Nordic bikers convicted

A Hell's Angel and two mem-bers of affiliated gangs were convicted yesterday of mur-dering the leader of the rival Bandidos gang and attempting to kill his companions in an ambush in March at

second Hell's Angel, but the court reversed the decision, opening the possibility of a new trial. Two other bikers were acquitted. — AP.

Fishermen freed

Italy said yesterday that Libya had decided to release two Italian fishermen held for four months and convicted ritorial waters. - Reuter.

Nazi loot inquiry

Sweden said yesterday it would launch a formal inves-tigation into allegations by the World Jewish Congress that looted Nazi gold from the second world war had found its way into official Swedish

Iraq holds 'spies' Iraq said yesterday it had arrested a sabotage and espio-nage ring working for the CIA and that all had given full

confessions. The CIA refused

to comment — AP. Jail clampdown

Rangladesh strengthened security at prisons throughout the country yesterday to prevent further unrest as prison-ers at two jails refused to end their sieges. — Reuter.

Negotiator faints Italy's European commis-

against the plans. They say gambling will continue in illesioner Emma Bonino collapsed after 21 hours of nego-tiations on fishing quotas gal casinos, or abroad, with no tax benefits to the country. Government revenues from with EU ministers. Her spokesman said she fainted from exhaustion. — Reuter. casinos totalled about £47 million in 1995, and £51 million in 1996 up to mid-November,

Kurd bases hit

Turkish warplanes and heli two Turkish Kurdish rebel bases in northern Iraq, a mili The raid was carried out on those who are single. Thursday. - AP.

Religious police bring out the big sticks to beat vice in Kabul

OOTBALL is out. So are waves and salutes, public signs of affection between men and women, pape course — and all music excep for the marching songs of the Taliban religious movement, which for nearly three months has tried to return the Afghan capital to the ways of the rough village from which it grew.
At the Office for the Propa

gation of Virtue and the Pre-vention of Vice — a sort of religious police which has been issuing decrees against all things considered immoral by the Teliken. by the Taliban - Maulyi Inayatullah Baligh is still not satisfied.

Mr Baligh, the deputy minister for vice and virtue wears the long-tailed turban of the Taliban although he is a career bureaucrat who performed the same duties under the previous Islamic govern-ment of Burhanuddin Rab-kill them." bani, which was chased out of Kabul by the Taliban nearly

three months ago.
"In the past this office talked, but it did not act. We are now prepared to cope with all immoralities," he The youthful fighters of the

Taliban, who career around Kabul in pick-up trucks with white flags flying, already en-force the call to Friday prayers by clubbing people into

Mr Baligh this week acted o increase worship every day of the week with a decree requiring shopkeepers to set aside places for prayer. But his office focuses over

whelmingly on vice. Mr Ba-ligh has 100 religious inspectors at his disposal in Kabul who are empowered to deliver instant judgments on those who offend the Taliban's strict dress code, or are dis covered drinking, committing robbery, or having illicit sex

— punishable by death for married people, 100 lashes for

'Whenever we catch them doing immoral things, we can do anything we want. We can execute them, we can kill them?

Suzanne Goldenberg (right) in Kabul talks to the man who is taking a hard line on enforcing the Taliban's moral code



crimes when they capture them, exactly at that time," hended and no woman has suffered the official punishthem doing immoral things, we can do anything we want. But they are less harsh

with engaged couples who may forget themselves and hold hands in public. "If we catch them, we separate them, and then we give some slaps to the boy's face." Women must wear the

head-to-toe shroud of the chaderei, with a filigree panel over the eyes. Men must grow beards and are advised to cover their heads with woollen skullcaps, embroidered hats or the flowing turbans favoured by the Talihan. Government workers who

ignore warnings to grow peards face dismissal and Mr Balieh said six justice ministry employees have been sacked so far. Other civil servants have been sacked for not attending prayers at the

Mr Baligh said he is confident that Kabul's 150,000 working women will observe the ban on work, unless they are employed in hospitals. Mr Baligh's police have dis-

ment of 29 lashes for showing her face in public. "So far we have not given real punishsticks." he said, swishing his hand through the air with relish But his inspectors have had

unauthorised support from Taliban foot soldiers. Last week, Radio Sharia — the renamed Radio Afghanistan - announced that 250 women had been beaten in a single day for violating a ban on appearing in public without

wearing chaderei.

Mr Baligh protested. "In fact, we are in charge. The Taliban are not in charge, but have had to warn them not to

But there are signs that Kabul's religious police are mov-ing towards a harder line. On Wednesday, the supreme court authorised the first execution according to the Islamic law of retribution. At a football stadtum in central Kabul, hardened fighters watched in evident satisfaction as a bereaved man shot dead the killer of his pregnant wife and children.

arried people, 100 lashes for covered no drinkers so far, lose who are single.

'They deal with these of adulterers have been appre-people, many are prepared to ban don't do that."

compromise with the Taliban whose barsh regime bas spared them from the excesses of the marauding troops of the previous govern-ment, who committed atroc-

Earlier this week, Mr Baligh's office banned paper bags for fear that they were made of recycled material that could include pages from the Koran and other holy books.

ities against women and

In the Firoshga market, second-hand booksellers, for now, sell copies of Secrets of Love — a popular pulp novel her head thrown back on the cover - and song books from they interfere in our task. We | hand carts. A vendor of dried fruit and nuts laughed when asked whether he chafed against Taliban edicts. He said he does not mind paying 100 Afghanis for a plastic bag instead of 10 Afghani for paper as long as he can keep

his stall safe. "It's not such a bad situation. On Fridays, they ask me to come to prayers, but they have not punished me and I don't mind having to grow a beard," said Malang Shah. "In the past Rabbani's sol-diers used to just take what

they wanted. At least the Tali-



ts chief

No future for rebels trapped in past

Peru's 'post-modern' guerrillas draw their inspiration from history but ignore contemporary facts, writes Richard Gott

tion of guerrilla activity in Latin America that has ebbed and flowed over de-cades and centuries. Independence from Spain in the early 1800s would never have been successful without the innusuccessful without the innumerable guerrilla armies that helped to put in place a new world order. Oligarchic, unrepresentative and authori-tarian regimes have run most of the continent ever since. More than a century later,

in the 1960s and 1970s, guer-rilla groups spraing up every-where in the (usually) vain hope of repeating the success So the Peruvian rebels that

have reappeared in Lima with for making knowing refersuch a dramatic sense of ences to old movies, so theatre have plenty of fore-runners. Indeed for long-term

HERE IS a long and observers of the continent honourable tradihostages, the kidnapping of foreign diplomats, the ransom demands, the reading-out of obscure political manifestos. From Uruguay to El Salvador. from Argentina to Nicaragua, these were the steady spectaculars of the 1970s. Embassies strengthened their security, the CIA sent in their counter insurgency and torture teams, and military dictatorships were installed to kill off a generation of the continent's young revolutionaries. In one sense, the actions of the Peruvian group Tupac Amaru are a simple post-modern replay of the past. Like

the current vogue in cinema for making knowing refer-

decessors. Tupac Amaru himself sparked off a rebellion in 1780 that reached from the countryside into every Spanish town in the Andes. In the 1960s, Cuban-backed guerrillas invoking the images of Che Guevara tried to do the same, not just in Peru but all

Yet today's revolutionaries seem to owe more to current abstruse theories about cul-ture than to a detailed consid-eration of historical example. In the 1990s in Peru, and also earlier in Mexico, we have been seeing the emergence of post-modern guerrilla movements that are rather differ-ent from those that appeared before. The iconography may look the same — the masks the weapons, the red flags— but the ideology is different. The aim of these armed

bands is not to seize power and effect a revolution in society through armed struggle, defeating regular armies plenty of fore today's rebels reinforce their through guerrilla warfare. ed for long-term revolutionary credentials by That would be a hopeless

their willingness to refer back | task. Their more simple pur- one knows that it is many to the triumphs of their pre- pose, through the weapons of years since Fidel Castro's imitation, parody, and pas-tiche, is to cast doubt on the viability of the current neoconservative ideology that spread its suffocating blanket over the entire continent. Through their manipulation

> When Mexico's political system breaks down, it will be to the benefit of the right, not left

> of the "propaganda of the deed" they hope to destabilise the governments of their countries and, from the ensu-

> same words and rhetoric as slogans have mostly lost their meaning. They still invoke

ing "imperialism", yet in the absence of the Soviet Union, which was once able to provide a counter-weight to the regional superpower, there is no possibility that local resisallowed to survive.
Guerrilla means "a small

war", yet today's rebels are hardly capable of sustaining a raditional small war. Counter-insurgency tech niques are infinitely more developed than they were 30 years ago. Much of Latin America's rural hinterland has been drained of population and small anti-government armed groups can only survive

areas. While immense sharty towns can spawn endless recruits for rebel groups, there kind that Islam provides for Middle East Even Peru's Sendero Luminoso has been ham-

portunity to conduct the classic revolutionary war where the "small war" guerrilla tion. In the case of Mexico, the localised guerrilla outbreak in the rural areas of Chianas, on Mexico's south-ern border with Guatemala, failed to ignite much activity elsewhere.

The Zapatistas have been using the 20th century peas-ant leader Emiliano Zapata as their emblematic figurehead, in much the same way that the Peruvians have been icon-ising the 18th century rebel Tupac Amaru, but these talis-manic invocations have had little effect. The notoriously compromised Mexican left has not been able to use the guerrilla challenge to unite its own political forces against the government. When the old and creaking political system in Mexico does break down it will be to the benefit of the right rather than the left.

The outlook in Peru equally pessimistic. Peru in poor poorer.

from a 25-year period of crisis in which its traditions, its po-litical institutions and society itself, have been dramatically transformed. The country in the process has tried every kind of political recipe, in-cluding socialism imposed by

Fujimori may get a bad press for closing down the congress but he remains popular

military flat and populism en-forced through charlsmatic corruption.
Springing from nowhere, and without party label or bag-gage. [President Alberto] Fuji-mori has imposed the standard

economic programme of the now global world order. As everyone now recognises, this makes the rich richer and the

The grounds for dissatisfac tion are legion, and groups difficulty in finding recruits. But the cards are stacked against them. Fujimori may get a bad press for closing down the country's congress, but he has received firm in ternational support and

remains popular at home. The rebels' only real hope of The rebels only real hope of securing change is through martyrdom, and the Japanese government — still uncomfortable with its role as a global political player — has been moving heaven and been moving heaven and earth to prevent this. The original rebellion of Tupac Amaru was drowned by the Spaniards in blood. Hundreds of Indians were executed in the towns of the Andes, both in the programs and in the in the morning and in the afternoon. It was a terrible warning, and there was silence for a generation. But then the Spaniards were gone. Richard Gott is the author of Guerrilla Movements in Lati

People of Zaire have mastered art of getting by

Ruaridh Nicoll in Kinshasa finds the world of politics very far from the appalling misery of daily life

It is almost impossible to describe the way this country operates. Foreigners are volid, a high school specialising in science on the outskirts

eacher carinot stand at the blackboard," he says. Even Zaire's leaden corrup-

tion cannot slow time and with each of the past six years, life has become more difficult for the people who teach here. The world may be watching Zaire, expecting its disintegration, and President Mobutu Sese Seko may have returned after a long absence, full of promises to fight and win the war in the east. But just politics, nothing com-pared to facing the daily evil. Each morning Andre Ma-shikote, the school's attendant, turns his barrowed face to the ledger on his desk. A column falls alongside the names of the 1,200 students his pen runs down, checking for those without a tick. Then he walks to the classrooms

dents sit three to a desk. There are no pens, books or jotters and the teacher stops as the attendant walks in Mr Mashikote calls the names of the children on his list — kids whose parents have failed to pay the £3 monthly fee — and then es-corts them from the school grounds. 'They come the next day because they want to learn, but since they have no financial means they are not allowed in," he says. "It is very sad, they stand around until the classes are over."

where between 80 and 100 stu

Mr Mashikote cuts a miser able figure in his plyboard facilities like a laboratory tells a tale. Adult literacy has always been reasonably good, but in 1990 the government racy and, more than 14 governments later, everything s gone to hell. One in three children now receive no schooling. But education would not exist in Zaire if the chers and parents had not taken over responsibility for the schools in the vacuum that was left when, in 1993, the government cheques

stopped arriving. There is unlikely to be an election, as promised, next year. The war in the east has already given the government its excuse to back away from its promises. What the transition has brought instead is same. Lema Kiensidna, a misery. "Leadership has been father of 11, holds some plants suppressed, the military is disorganised, the government is weak and the political class Cleophas Kamitatu-Massamba, a former minister and ambassador, who sitting in a room surrounded by portraits gone." he says. "Now I don't of himself. "Because of the have enough to feed my famcomplete, total and absolute

money the school needs has dise - the art of getting by.

gone. On the alopes of Binza Hill, stand the grey guts of a large half-built house. It is nicknamed the White House by Kinshasa's residents, who recognise the vast, bow front in the skeletal structure. lush gardens spread away into the distance. The unfin-ished house belongs to the prime minister, Kengo wa

of Kinshasa. The room is tion is placed in a folder fifthy and very hot, just a marked "pour le ministre". But this is nothing to what smashed tiles running down towards the ceiling where the "They stop you, strip you naked and steel everything youd. "When it rains the Last week they even took my shirt."

the hospital barely functions bassadors could only watch as the government sold half of their embassies to a super-market looking for parking

pitable and friendly, and un-willing to criticise their presi-

could never happen in another country. There

would have been a

with prosta There is laughter when people here talk of coups and revolution. "The situation here could never happen in another country," a Western diplomat says. "There would have been a bloody revolu-tion. But these are quiet people, it is a country that is used to living away from

Mr Kamitatu-Massamba continues his analysis: "The

In the east, the war seems to have ground to a halt. The rebels' advance has stalled despite Zairean forces falling back to the regional capital of "grey area" between the ar-mies, awash with anything up

ing is that it might remain the same. Lema Kiensidna, a with which he is going to make a stomach potion that he hopes to sell. He used to be a tailor but people are too poor to ask for his services these days. "Everytime I have any money it is quickly

fly or educate them." Asked how he copes, he Nower."

It is easy to see where the he believes in the debrouillar.

It is almost impossible to describe the way this country with. "The soldiers are our enemy," says one resident.

It is just the beginning There are no human rights, there is no transport and little communication. The American and the Portuguese ama well-known avenue outside

Yet the people endure, hos-

The situation here

bloody revolution'

activists

population is living in indescribable misery, but since Rwanda and the rebels attacked there has been a great rise in nationalistic feeling. the man who has saved the country's integrity in the past, so now the people look

Kisangani. There is a vast to 2,000 refuge

Meanwhile the good people of Kinshasa get on with their lives. It seems the only thing worse than Zaire disintegrat-

Among the other hostages



Riot police in Belgrade block the road to a bridge in the centre of the Serbian capital during a student protest before the rush hour yesterday. The tense stand-off coincided with the arrival of a delegation from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe to investigate allegations by the opposition Zajedno coalition PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BRANCH LI

Black English 'a language' says US school board

Richard Thomas in Washington

BLACK English, or "ebonics" — celebrated by rap artists and black activists — has been declared a second language by a California school board, opening the door to extra cash for bilingual teaching and provok-ing an immediate political

Arguing that phrases such as "he be walkin'" and "she done did it" are expressions

But with California embrofled in a legal civil war over the recently approved Proposition 209 — which would end positive discrimi-nation in favour of ethnic minorities — the move is likely to heighten racial tension and fuel conservative opposition to the \$130 million (£78,000) al-

ready spent on bilingual edu-cation in the state. The US justice department yesterday said it was poised to weigh into the affirmative

schools to teach black children in their own tongue. | the US constitution | Oakland education officials insisted, however, that the decision on ebonics was merely intended to underline the le-gitimacy of black culture, as well as to help African American children leave standard English. Teachers are to receive special training to

help them bridge the lan-guage gulf.

"When children come to school with whatever lan-guage — whether they are Futhings or Chinese or Hispanic

"The African American com-munity says: Why aren't our students given that money and support, if they are lim-ited in English?" But there were lears that the board's radical stance

could backfire and erode support for other, clearer cut pro-grammes. "In one sense, this is all we need," said Jim Lyons, director of the National Association for Bilingual Education. "Whenever bilingual education is raised in this way, there is a of in this way, there is a

tuate the diversity in dia-lects," he said.

The two key differences be-tween black English and stan-dard English, according to linguists, are the use of "be"

members of the black community at the failure of the school system to recognise their culture, he said the linguistic basis of the new ruling was unsound.

"Ebonics is not a separate language, in the way Spanish is, although the rap movement has done a lot to accentinate the diversity in diadecision would discourage

Norm Gold, who oversees. California's distribution of federal money for bilingual teaching, said requests for money for ebonics were un-likely to succeed, and that the done did it" are expressions to weigh into the affirmative inmos or Chinese or Hispanic from a language carved out action case in California, by West African slaves, the With President Clinton back port them," said the board claimed the decision stemmed ing the department's view president, Lucella Harrison. In the legitimate anger from legitimate anger from legitimate anger from tives for emphasis, as in "I funded from existing budgets."

investment.

News in brief

Mystery gunmen threaten to Yeltsin 'back murder Tajikistan hostages

terday, including seven United Nations military observers and two other UN

corridor from the Afghan border to the headquarters of

UN sources said they threatened to kill the hostages and explode 30 bombs in the capital. Dushanbe, unless their demands have been met by tomorrow at 2pm local

NIDENTIFIED gunmen mission monitoring a cease-tiook 23 people hostage on a highway in Tajikistan yes-tions in the area earlier this month.

The country's president and a top opposition leader met in Moscow yesterday be-fore the scheduled signing of The kidnappers demanded fore the scheduled signing of the release of the brother of a a formal ceasefure agreement Tajik commander and a safe | today. The accord aims to end mer Soviet republic.

permitted to drink." The conflict in Tajikistar involves bitter regional rival-ries and reached a peak dur-ing the 1992-93 civil war. Kremlin desk on Monday, adding: "The country needs Many supporters of the oppoan active and energetic president, especially now."

Asked about Mr Lebed's sition, who regrouped in the rugged mountains and across the border in Afghanistan, seek to make Tajikistan an Isremarks, a spokesman said: "We do not comment on cabinet that "looks like Amer-such things." — Reuter. | ica", writes Richard Thomas are members of a Tajik com- lamic state. - AP.

Chechenia on the bottle' holds 'killers'

Chechen security forces have USSIA's former security Chief, Alexander Lebed, said in a television interdetained several men sus-pected of killing six Red Cross workers in the separatist view yesterday that Presi-dent Boris Yeltsin had igrepublic on Tuesday, Chechenia's top security official nored his doctors' advice to said vesterday. avoid alcohol.

Abu Movsayev refused to "He has begun to drink," said Mr Lebed, sacked by say how many people had been detained, name them or Mr Yelisin as security chief say what evidence had impliin October. "But he is not cated them, the Itar-Tass news agency reported. He has accused Russian secret ser-vices of organising the kill-Mr Yeltsin said yesterday he would return to his

ings. - AP. **Last Clinton posts** Bill Clinton's final cabinet appointments yesterday met the demands of black leaders for a

Alexis Herman, a black presi-dential aide, labour secretary, and Andrew Cuomo, the eldest son of the former New York mayor Mario Cuomo, head of the housing and

urhan development department. Jakarta decree President Suharto, in a decree released by the state secretariat yesterday, ordered indonesians and local companies

earning more than 100 million ruplah (£26,000) a year to do-nate 2 per cent of their profits to the poor. - Reuter. Healing process

Germany and the Czech Republic yesterday concluded nearly two years of talks on a joint declaration to heal the wounds between the two ica", urites Richard Thomas | countries. The declaration ex-

in Washington. He made | presses Bonn's sorrow for the Nazi occupation of the Czech lands, and Prague's regret for Czech brutality in the post-war expulsion of ethnic Germans. - Reuter.

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Beyond the planets

nation, erudition Professor Carl Sagan, the brilhas died aged 62 after a long battle with leukaemia. At a crucial phase in its history, with its philosophy floundering and long-term survival balanced on a biological knife edge, humanity has lost one of its most important and ar-

mer and biologist, Sagan was a true polymath, able to do much more than illuminate the place of mankind in the universe. He could carry the mind of everyman into orbit with a comet, into the far reaches of space to perceive the probability and structure of other life-forms, to touch and understand the planets in their individual intricacy and beauty and, with equal impact, unravel the atmospheric and climatic consequences of nuclear war and other bleak human follies.

When firmly on the earth. his lectures reached beyond specialist aspecis of astronon earth or elsewhere — to the many key and complex issues facing humanity and its fragile blue planet. He ke with an authority, precision and power that was in-dividualistic, even dramatic, and memorable that he en-gendered extremes of aca-

demic admiration and envy. Far from being a publicist. as jealous voices have set a world-level scientist. And, as his 1980 Cosmos televiseries will confirm far

He was the son of a Russianborn garment manufacturer and was born in New York City. His interest in astron-omy was kindled in New Jersey high school and he gradu-ated with a physics degree from the University of Chicago in 1954. His first works were published soon after and his doctorate, in astronomy and astrophysics, followed in 1960. He joined the faculty at Harvard in 1962. In 1968 he

space programme. He played a leading role in the development and instrumentation of the Mariner, Viking, Voyager and Galileo spacecraft expedi-tions to the planets, achieving acclaim for his studies of windblown dust as an explanation of seasonal changes on Mars. It was Sagan who de-signed the imaginative encryption on an engraved plate, describing the human form and the position of the earth

Imaginative reaches into the possibilities of extra-terrestrial life were accompanied by biological experiments attempting to simulate the earth's early atmosphere

went to Cornell University in upstate New York where he set up a planetary studies lab-oratory. It was in the 1960s that he began studying the surface and atmosphere of Venus. There were many discrepancies between the accepted picture of a planet, then believed to have a cool surface, and other factors such as the high temperature emissions from its enveloping atmosphere.

Sagan, bringing the notion of the "greenhouse gas effect" into currency, showed that existing hypotheses were wrong, and went on to calculate that the planet must have a high surface temperature. His hypothesis resolved all conflicts and, although initially controversial, both the mechanisms and the calculation were eventually accepted and shown to

been carried into space on American satellites to be read. perhaps, by remote civilis-

His involvement in the search for life-forms on other planets and fearless discussion of extra-terrestrial civilisational astronomers. But in 1966, jointly with the Soviet as-tronomer L S Shklovskii in the seminal book *Intelligent Life in* the Universe, he foresaw and pre-empted their criticisms.

This book, a pioneering Cold War collaboration that somehow managed to penetrate the Iron Curtain, is dedicated to JBS Haldane, the British and often controversial scientist whose imaginative sweep had much in common with that of Sagan. In the preface Sagan accepts that the question of extra-terrestrial

O OTHER scientist of our century has matched the great breadth of imagination, erudition distribution. We developing rapidly. With his interest reaching out to other planets, he was inevitably for examining the distribution. We have developing rapidly. With his interest reaching out to other planets, he was inevitably forwing into the American space programme. He played a extra-terrestrial intelligence, we may be at the mercy of our prejudices. At the present time there is no unambiguous evidence for even the most simple form of extra-terrestrial life, but the situation may change in the coming years. Whether we have been too optimistic or not optimis tic enough, only the future

Sagan's imaginative reaches

into the possibilities of extra-terrestrial life were accompanied by biological experiments which, with more success than the earlier work of Miller and Urey, attempted to simulate the earth's early atmosphere and the creation of the chemistry of life. Itradiating a mixture of methane, ammonia and hydrogen sul-phide he was able to produce amino acids and sugars, such modeic acids, all common constituents of present day life forms. He showed that formal-debydes were produced and that, intriguingly, the experi-ments also produced traces of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), a compound of crucial importance as an energy store in the biochemistry of living cells.

Although intrinsically successful, these experiments stressed the importance of planetary atmospheres in any life-producing process, and the detection of an atmosphere and possibly water on Mars encouraged wild public specuwould produce evidence of life. In fact Mariner spacecraft could not do this. They were designed to study the plane-tary atmosphere and gather

Carl Sagan . . . an articulate guide to the cosmo back to earth stimulated a standing that changed Carl Sa-

and a seemingly insatiable appe-tite for controon all-comers in a battle to educate the public in the exer cise of reason, stressing the importance of science and imagination and the roles of astronomy, cosmology and bi-ology in understanding man-kind's place in the vastness of the 1978 Pulitzer Prize-winkind's place in the vastness of

gency, he sought to promote understanding of the human predicament on earth. In this he was, in a real sense, a part-

ningly barren surface sent it was inevitable that, in the tress arguments with impectable that it is a sively negative press in knowledge of planetary atmospheres and dynamics would into the philosophies of earlier civil sations.

David Duncan Professor of Astronomy and Space Sciences into the philosophies of earlier civil sations. play a central role in an analy-sis of nuclear weapon effects. happy times were often sur-The startling, indeed frighten-ing outcome, published as Nu-clear Winter: Global Conse-quences of Multiple Nuclear Explosions (1984) triggered a huge scientific controversy which remains unresolved.

> cripple world agriculture has had a salutary effects on politning The Dragons of Eden: of Human Intelligence, and the most recent are Pole Blue Dot: a Vision of the Human Future in Space (1994) and The Demon

would change climate and

Visitors to his house in

prised to find no telescopes or other trappings of astronomy. In their place were a copy of the Rosetta Stone, old and unphilosophical tracts from both East and West, and a collection of objects whose unusual form or great beauty seemed to need study and, perhaps, explanation. He possessed the ability to

encompass these disparate things and, convincingly, weave them as a form of illumination into his own philosophy, enlarging public under standing of man's place in a world and a universe of extraordinary elegance and beauty. In his last years at Cornell and had received awards from almost every country in the world, gained the prestigious Masursky Award of the American Astronomical Society. The citation contributions to the develop Many of the most productive planetary scientists working

today are his present and for mer students and associates." assessment of his huge stature. It is no less important that through his books, his great clarity of mind and amazing energy, he touched

Carl Sagan, scientist, born No-



Anne Bolt . . . copyright campaign PHOTOGRAPH MAURICE VATES | singer: During the war, with

Putting rights in the picture

prolific photographic itised at all-women's concert decade to bring it on to the Salvador Dall and party, taking it from Gibral agends. She was a key figure lar through North Africa to among her subjects — whose Cairo. South American bar. She was also a journalist and a prime mover for copyright reform, gaining for photographers the same rights to ownership of their material as other cre-ators, lost since John Ruskin and fellow artists in the 19th century ensured their relegation to second-class status.

Elegant, graceful and always good company, she worked with profound but un-declared diligence on behalf general and photographers in her of the National Union of likely trade unionist — a the back of a padre's motor cousin by marriage was a bike. The National Geopeer and an ex-husband a dip-lomat. She served as a mem-ber of the NUJ executive, and branch and the union's freeance industrial council. In 1986 she was made a member

Anne's father was a jour nalist and her mother an elo-cution professor at the Royal Guildhall College of Music. She first worked as an actress

Her career change came in Brazil with her second hus-band Graham Chivers, a diplomat, when he bought a camera from a barman for a pound and gave it to Anne. She determined to become a photographer, spent a year at college, and joined the Hamp-stead News.

Then, while planning a trip to Venezuela, she asked the Tatler if they would like a photographer present on the court.

photo spread on the gover-nors of the West Indies which started a long association with the area.

to photograph the Guahibo In-Journalists. She was an un- dians, having secured a lift on graphic magazine was interested — but only if she wrote the story too; and so she became that rare animal, a photographer who writes. Her work took her around

the world, she compiled a much-used photo-library and much-used photo-notary made a name for herself in travel journalism. She pretended to be "a poor illitera Guildhall College of Music.
She first worked as an actress and dancer — her first husband, Bill Stevens, was a singer. During the war, with She early recognised the

NNE Bolt, who has the forces entertainment significance of copyright and married for nearly 40 years, died aged 84, was goorganisation Ensa, she organisation worked singlehandedly for a land three step-children.

brain that buregucratic minutize of end-less meetings, and the gift of crystallising them into a couple of sentences, delivered with good humour, which both elevated discussion and defused rancour.

Her speeches, delivered without notes, usually had a joke at the end. In the occasional bouts of union infight ing it was noticeable that she was never asked to join one faction or another - she en-

joyed the respect of all.

She was gleeful when, at a particularly turbulent time in London Freelance Branch during which Bernard Levin ing a takeover, she sent a telegram from the Turks and Caicos Islands which along the grapevine was transmuted as a conspiracy mes-sage about "young Turks and

Anne alway looked to the future, promoting young pho-tographers and trade union-ists whenever possible. She was always accessible for discussion and advice - and a

laugh. She leaves her husband Maurice Yates, a staunch ally and partner to whom she was

Val Wilmer writes: Anne Anne had an analytical Bolt's Home Countles accent useful wespons in the fight for rights and conditions in the journalists' workplace. No-where was this more in evi-dence than in the late 1970s when Bernard Levin attempted to pack the NUJ's London freelance branch with a bunch of acolytes in response to what he interpreted as a "Marxist takeover".

> natural ally in Anne, who at that stage still occasionally wore a hat to meetings. How wrong he was. The attempt at a right-wing putsch only made her dig her heels in deeper. It was a delight to witness her such skill that they hardly realised what was happening.
> She was one of many middleof-the-roaders radicalised by this interference and one of the first NUJ officers to waive her privacy by publishing her phone number, making herself available to other isolated freelances. She was a true hack in the sense that journalists use

He expected, apparently, a

cipled professional. Anne Bolt, photo-journalist and trade unionist; born November 21, 1912; died December 9, 1996

the word: a thorough and prin-

Weekend Birthdays PROFILES of Jane Fonda, 59

today, run to this ritual pattern. Start with the dark star father, the mother a sulcide because of fear of age, the upbringing in Hollywood by gov-ernesses and gardeners. Mention the crazy eating and drugging. Do a chart on how she pleased each of three husbands — director Roger Vadim; activist turned politico Tom Hayden; boss of the CNN dia ranch Ted Turner obliging them with a matching persona; as on-screen sex doll; or wild radical turned fitness franchiser, or devoted Stepford wife promoting her health cookbook. Print a panel of quotes to show the contra-dictions between what she

said in each period. "An essentially weak woman of inconsequential opinions," dis misses one profiler, and another drawls that she no longer has any value even as Jane Fonda to the whales stickers are peeling off seventies rustbuckets. What did they expect, you mutter, she's an actress born and bred. It's the family trade and her living - until she did that renun ciation scene when she married Turner. She's simply the living the life of a time with total conviction, absolute selfinduced belief in the latest draft of the script delivered by

Today's other birthdays Tony Chater, former editor, Morning Star, 67; Nobby Clark, photographer, 54; Chris Evert-Lloyd, tennis

Conservative MP. 70: Albert Lee, rock guitarist, 53: Geoff Lewis, racehorse trainer, 61: Margaret McGowan, profes-sor of French, University of Sussex, 65; Hanif Mohammad. cricketer. 62: Steve Perryman, footballer, 45; Anthony Powell CH, novel ist, 91; Brig Vera Rooke, for-mer director, Army Nursing Services, 72; Walter Spangh ero, rugby player, 53; Greville Starkey, jockey, 57; Keifer Sutherland, actor, 30; Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 52; Peter Tinnis Townsend, Conservative MP 59; Doug Walters, former cricketer, 51; Alan Williams, Labour MP, 51; Carl Wilson, rock guitarist, 50; Bob Worcester, chairman, Mori,

Tomorrow's birthdays: Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken, 75; James Burke, broadcaster, 60: Dr Alan Bush, composer, conductor, planist, 96; Robin Corbett, Labour MP, 63; Maurice and Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees pop group, both 47; Patricia Hayes, actress, 87; Karin Jonzen, sculptor, 82; Mike Molloy, former editor, the Daily Mirror, 56; Sir Trefor Morris, retiring HM chief in-spector of constabulary, 62; Chris Old, former England cricketer, 48; Tracy Ward, actress, 38; The Duke of Westminster, chancellor, Man-chester Metropolitan University, 45; Ken Whitmore, playwright, 57; Joe Lee Wilson, blues singer, 61; Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, editor, 73.

Face to Faith

Gloss that obscures the real scandal of Christmas

Richard Chartres

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A. "F".

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ABBI Botesch's helpful contribution last week to this Advent series conveys a lively sense of the scandal of the Christmas story: "Is it possible that this child being field so lovingly in Mary's arms is really revered as the Creator of heaven and earth?" he asks. The story of the Nativity is a door into a faith which in the New Tes ment is described as foolishness to the cultivated Greeks and a scandal to the religious Jews. It still is.

My experience is that dialogue between the great reli-gious traditions, if it is conducted with courtesy, rarely fails to illuminate aspects of one's own faith which are often obscured by familiarity. At the same time, dialogue can serve as a reminder of the large areas of common experi-ence which believers in God share, and the gulf which separates them from the secular orthodoxy which has given birth to the world culture,

dubbed by Ernest Geliner as "Consu ner Unbeliever International."

In this culture the Christmas story has been domesti-cated, and like an old master under many layers of varnish, has lost its freshness. The scandal has been obscured as two lines of development reach a critical point. The humanisation of the divine and the divinisation of the human have both combined to eclipse the significance of the advent of the God-man.
The humanisation of the

divine can be seen in many popular treatments of the Christmas story. The emphasis is not on the Nativity as the embodiment of the divine Word, but as a brilliant edition of universal human experiences. The wonder of childbirth and the spectacle of selfsacrificing maternal love are employed to evoke a warm emotional response. Christ-mas in this tradition is pre-sented as a variation on the adage "hope springs eternal" only with some attractive spir-Hual decor.

The separation between God and human beings to which Rabbi Boteach and Fnad Nahdi referred as an axiom in Judaism and Islam is the gulf which the coming of the Godman bridges. This gulf, how-ever, is hidden in modern

times by the divinisation of the human. The centrality of the individual search for ma-terial and psychological comfort has displaced the notion of a radical dependence on God. If God is allowed to linger on in the modern scheme, it is as an asset or assistant in the process of individuation. The ethical fall-out from this displacement is that concepts of obligation or duty have been overshadowed by an insis-tence on human rights and in-

dividual authenticity. The secular orthodoxy in which human beings are gods, "the masters and possessors of the earth" (Descartes) devel-oped from Christianity. Many of the Church Fathers use the hold phrase that "God became man so that man may become god" but in course of time the promise has become detached

from the condition that "the Word became flesh and dwelt

The gulf between God and humanity may be obscure or meaningless for many secular-ists, but it can reappear discon-cartingly. Despite the dreams of secular comfort and the potent myth of progress and human perfectibility, we are inescapably brought face to face with our limits. In a world permeated by death in which everything gravitates towards nothingness we either live life blindly, or we know anguish. However, in this anguish, there is a yearning for the eternal and for a communion which will overcome our isolation. This yearning can open our eyes to our own being, and can deepen our desire for unity with the One God. In contemplating our limits and our longing, our minds and hearts can be turned round and our grasp of reality transformed. In the Church's yearly cycle of teaching, Advent is the sea-son for meditating on the limits of our individual lives, and on our human life together on this planet. The Light which came into the world with the

darkness and the limits of human life. St John puts this starkly at the very beginning of his gos-pel. "He was in the world and the world was made by him and the world knew him not." I am convinced that the spirit-filled

birth of Jesus Christ is invisi-

hie unless we are aware of the

teachers and the Holy Scriptures are not among us to be remain as we are. On the con-trary, they illuminate our ess as a first step towards our recognising and embracing our true destiny as persons in communion with God.

The great world religions recognise the visitation of the "Word of God," God's communication with us, in various forms. For a number of ancient religions, and also for many of the groups loosely categorised as "New Age," the divine signature is deducible understanding grows with the perception of nature as the manifestation of God.

SECOND embodiment of "Word" can be seen in the religions of the Book. The personal God who engenders history reveals Sacred Scripture.
While related to both these

traditions, Christianity also believes that "the Word became flesh" in the person of Jesus Christ. The personal incarnation of the Word gives full meaning to the cosmic and scriptural embodiments. The former is freed from the temptation to reduce God to an imlatter is freed from the tempta tion to separate God and humanity, leaving no possibility of communion between them.

human face of God. In the Nativity story we see God in the foolishness of love, coming as a vulnerable child so that we may accept him in all freedom. A Jewish-Christian text of the second century wonderfully expresses this humility of the incarnate God.

his greatness. He made himself like me so that I might receive him. He made himself like me so that I might be clothed in him. I had no fear when I saw him, for he is mercy for me. He took my nature so that I might understand him, for he

His love for me brought low

is mercy for me. He took my nature so that I night understand him. My face so that I should not turn away from him. (Odes of Solomon VII)

An experience of the birth of the Christ in our own lives and the possibility of pro-found communion with God comes through the Advent contemplation of the limits to human life, and a reliance, not on having but on being. Without Advent, the Incarnation is incomprehensible. "He came unto his own but they that were his own received him not" — because they were too busy drowning their sorrows

Rt Rev Richard Chartres, the commenting on and concluding

Letter: Edward Blishen

Webb's fine memorial for Edward Blishen (December 14) does not mention Edward's strong and consistent support for comprehensive education. Soon after the publication of his path-breaking Rooring Boys (1955), and while still a teacher at Archway county secondary school in London, he joined the original editorial board of the educational journal Forum,

Brian Simon writes: W L

established by Robin Pedley and myself to promote discussion around the objective of comprehensive Edward contributed

frequently to the journal from its first number, remaining a member of the board for 15 years, consistently attending neetings and contributing to our (sometimes) uprogrious discussions. Indeed in 1987 he gallantly returned. contributing a full report of an all-day "demonstrative conference" Forum organised in critical opposition to the so-called **Great Education Reform** Bill", passed into law in 1988. Edward was strongly opposed to the market-based reconstruction of the system embodied in that Act, in this toeing the same line as his

great friend, Harry Ree, who spoke at the conference. In

power of education as a chief enhancing, humorous and witty, he was a true companion with a clea unsentimental view of his deals, to which he remained faithful all his life. He will be greatly missed throughout the educational.

Edward we have lost a true

concern for the liberating

humanist, with a deep

as well as the literary world.

bombing of Pan Am 103, over Lockerble. He lived on the crest of a wave. And for the other two hundred and alkly nine. Their

In Memoriam

Birthdays

The Guardian

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Good news for someone else?

Clarke's net legacy to Blair

IF ROBUST economies always won elections then the Conservatives would be half way home by now instead of trailing hopelessly in the polls. The plethora of statistics released this week shows that although there are still very worrying imbalances — like the complete failure on industry's part to invest for the future — the economy as a whole is coasting effortlessly along. Unemployment is coming down almost suspiciously fast, gross domestic product is expanding faster than most other countries and living standards are 4.6 per cent higher than a year ago after allowing for inflation. Even the current account of the balance of payments which has let us down so often in the past during periods of expansion — is more or less in balance. In the past this would have been a signal that everything was on course for another Conservative victory. But this

What went wrong for the Government? It is mainly because voters have been deceived too often to take these events at face value. They know that the success of the economy is partly because it was driven too hard into the ground in the first place and only rescued when the pound was ignominiously ejected from the Exchange Rate Mechanism. They know it is easier for the Government to bring unemployment down when it made it so unmecessarily high in the first place. The Conservatives would have to cut unemployment by almost a million more to restore it to the level they inherited from the last Labour government in 1979. The Government's constant tampering with the unemploy-ment figures means that people don't take them as seriously as they should even when — as now — they are basically telling a good story. One respected City economist, Simon Briscoe of Nikko Europe, remarked this week that the unemployment figures were "about as useless as a single number can be for making a sensible assessment of what is going on in the labour

During the past few years economic policy has been far more responsible. Norman Lamont raised taxes heavily to undo the excesses of the Lawson boom and Kenneth Clarke hardly put a foot wrong until the nearness of the election made him take his eye off the ball, allowing interest rates and the exchange rate to rise when greater fiscal tightening would have been more appropriate. This would have dampened down the consumer spending boom that is now emerging and created a better climate for industry to export and invest. The figures for investment are so dreadful that optimists can only hope that they are wrong and will be revised unwards at some stage in the future. Yesterday's figures show that investment as a whole made only a tiny contribution to the 2.4 per cent expansion of the economy during the past year, and the most recent figures for manufacturing investment — still critically future growth — show a *fall* of 14 per cent in the year to the third quarter of 1995. What on earth is happening, or not happening? If industry won't invest after four years of steady growth, low inflation and no sign of a balance of payments problem then when will it ever? This is the single biggest problem that the next government will have to face - how to create the conditions for companies to lay down the extra capacity needed to ensure that this moderate recovery gains legs. At the moment Britain's growth, though unquestionably good, looks better than it really is because restrictive policies in the rest of Europe make the comparisons so flattering. Not that Tony Blair will be worrying overmuch. It still looks as though the net result of all this will be to bequeath to him the best economic inheritance of any Labour government this century.

Lima's grim message And Peru has other problems too

IT IS EASY enough to denounce hostage taking guerrillas - and equally difficult to suggest a rational end to the crisis. Rigid refusal to satisfy the Tupac Amaru's demands in Lima places the hostages at needless risk total capitulation will encourage other incidents: there can be no blueprint for a satisfactory compromise however many "experts" are flown in from abroad.

Yet the guerrillas have already achieved their first objective of reminding the world that Peru still faces huge problems and that most Peruvians are still desperately poor. If this sounds a banal statement, that is because everyday hardship has become banal in the age of the global market. Peru is a country where half the 24 million population live in poverty and four million of these cannot satisfy basic food and health requirements. Next week's news magazines will prove the point a dramatic piece of guerrilla action does wonders for the world media's social consciousness.

The crisis also focuses attention on the secretive and authoritarian style of President Alberto Fujimori, now being displayed in his lack of effective communication with the countries whose citizens are among the hostages. Mr Fujimori has expressed contempt for the criticism of leading human rights groups including Amnesty International who earlier this year launcehd a campaign to free hundreds of Peruvians from what it describes as unjust imprisonment on false terrorism. charges. Some 70 of these were finally released last months, but the sweeping legal powers and the prominent role given to the military authorities are unaffected. Mr Fujimori's reputation is higher abroad than at home. By a constitutional sleight-of-hand, he recently contrived to win a change in the law to let him stand for a third term in the year 2000. He remains dependent on the military, and has sidestepped a series of serious charges linking his chief adviser and the intelligence services to the narcotics trade.

The action of Tupac Amaru was a dramatic gesture in a well chosen location which may prompt caution in future about attending diplomatic parties in leafy suburbs. But it can hardly be seen as part of any coherent revolutionary programme. Peru — like many other countries in Latin America - remains trapped by debt, deprivation and years of structured inequality. It would be naive to suppose that any Peruvian govern-ment can transcend previous decades of corruption and military domination or reverse the concentration of wealth at a stroke - but is anyone trying? We must hope for a peaceful ending to the embassy crisis, but that is not the end of the affair.

Letters to the Editor

Why the Police Bill bugs us Enlightenment on Wild means to be a Muslim

HE right of every cit-izen to consult pri-vately with his lawyer is not only a fundamental principle of English law and a basic human right. protected also by the European Convention of Human Rights but it has been described by the former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor (in R-v-Derby Jus-tices Ex parte B [1995] All ER tion on which the administration of justice as a whole rests' (Dawning of the Age of the Judge, December 19).

Any threat to that right is a threat to freedom under the law for if a man cannot consult his lawyer in confidence he is denied justice. Clause 89 of the Police Bill now before Parliament, if passed, would give the police power to bug, enter and search premises on the authority of a Chief Constable. The Government has acknowledged that this will permit officers secretly to e listening devices in solitors' offices and barristers' chambers. Private communications hitherto protected by the law will be open to scru-

tiny by the police.
As the law currently stands any proposed seizure of confidential material by police
must be sanctioned by a senior
Crown Court Judge. Material

(Sulicitors' Associati
Solicitors' Associati
The London Crimin
8 Bow Street,
London WCZE 7AJ.

subject to legal professional privilege cannot be seized. The Government refuses to allow judicial sanction of these proposed powers, stating that to do so would result "in the judiciary's impartiality being called into

question". We are currently in a constitutional limbo where the criminal justice system has become a key issue in the forthcoming election with both major political parties auxious to outdo the other in their perceived attitude towards serious crime. Defendants in criminal pro-

eedings have lost their right of silence and, in certain circumstances, their right against self-incrimination. The Criminal Procedure & Investigations Act 1996 effectively reverses the burden of proof. The Opposition has made it plain that it supports these proposals. In the event, another of our basic human rights will drain away undebated and unprotected. Robert Roscoe (President). Christopher Murray (Vice-President), Sue Green (Junior Vice-President).

Solicitors' Association, The London Criminal Courts,

T IS very easy to find exam-ples of powers — and indeed rights — being abused but Meg Henderson seems to think the answer is to do away with them altogether (How I became a dangerous terrorist December 19). She avoids the fundamental question of whether it is ever acceptable

for the police to conduct surveillance. Most people believe that it is justified when purs-uing violent and dangerous criminals. But they also want to be confident that police powers are only used to pro-tect the public and when there are substantial reasons for It is absurd to attack Labour

for the system proposed by Michael Howard in the Police Bill: these activities were go-ing on in the seventies. This was admitted by 1984 when their use became subject to Home Office guidance but was still not subject to the law. It is only coming under legal con-straint now because of the pressure put on the Govern-ment by Labour during the

past year.

A legal framework will not necessarily stop Meg Henderson or anyone else from being bugged. And until there is leg-islation they will have no means of redress. Legislation will tell police officers what is expected of them within limits set by Parliament. Labour in general, and Jack Straw in particular, have concentrated on working out the best way to achieve a sensible balance in

Alun Michael MP. Shadow Minister for Home Affairs. House of Commons, London SWIA OAA

ACK STRAW places him-self in an absurd position. On one hand he writes (Bring-ing rights home, December 18) that it is the Labour Party's intention to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law in order to make accessible the rights it enshrines. Yet, on the other, he is reluctant to oppose provisions of the Police Bill which potentially violate the ECHR.

When it comes to the basic rights and obligations of the ctitizen, Jack Straw is clearly more interested in political posturing than rational argu-ment and effective action. If he is serious about citizens' rights, Jack Straw would do well to oppose the Police Bill more vigorously. Charles Marquand. 3 New Square Lincoln's Inn. London WC2A 3ES.

Enlightenment on what it

AS A British "fundamental-ist" Muslim, I have begun to fail to be surprised at how right-wing many liberal intellectuals, writing in liberal publications, become when writing about Islam (What on earth is Prince Charles up to? earth is Frince Charles up to December 18). They lose all sense of balance and intellectual integrity, and their understanding of the subject shows a lack of research. It seems that their motive is not enlightened debate but the lit-

erary equivalent of a machete The ugly picture of Islam that Catherine Bennett paints is not one that I, or the vast majority of Muslims, recognise. She mixes fact, fiction and uninformed opinion. Worse, she misquotes verses from the Koran and quotes others without explaining them. Her quotations origi-nate from the Penguin (mis) translation of the Koran by N

Dawood (not a Muslim). I do not find Islam "irrational" and, although I would not be so conceited as to call my-self an intellectual, I am well-educated, having been to grammar school, having a first degree in computing and an MBA. What I find attractive about Islam is the fact that Allah appeals to man to use his intellect.

The very first word revealed by Allah, through the Angel Gabriel, was "Read." He went on to say "And thy Lord is Most Bountiful, He who taught [the use of] the pen, taught Man that which he knew not." Islam is "the

RED Aicken's differentia-tion between films of "qual-ity" and those which are a commercial success, is a mas-

terpiece of cultural elitism

(Letters, December 17), Sim-

ilarly, your chief cinema crit-ic's 10 favourite films of 1996 included only two which

made the Top 10 in terms of box office receipts (Sense and Sensibility at seventh; and

Trainspotting at 10th).
This is symptomatic of the gulf between critics and punt-

ers. More broadly, the notion that popular appeal implies in-ferior quality — whose "qual-ity"? — arises from a spurious division of the arts into low.

middle and high-brow. It also enables those self-appointed cultural guardians at the sum-mit of this blerarchy to look

down with disdain at the great

Some spleen on the screen

middle path" and rejects extremism of any sort.
The "fundamentals" of
Islam teach me that men and women are equal, but differ-ent. It teaches me that heaven lies underneath my mother's feet, not my father's. How much more a superior posi-tion could a woman be given than to have heaven placed beneath her feet. Islam teaches me that best among men is he who is kundest to his

Iftikhar Awan. Beeston Avenue, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15.

THE genocide of indigenous peoples, racial supremacy, mass slavery, cultural imperialism, two world wars, the Holocaust, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Sabra and Shatila, ethnic cleansing, germ war-fare, the rape of the environment, rampant materialism, family breakdown, Third World debt, fortress Europe, All post-Enlightenment, all very rational. (Or) M Rahman. York Street

MAYBE you could also tell me why your newspaper gives so much space to a distorted attack on one of the world's three great monotheistic religions? Why are you treating Islam differently from Judaism and Christianity?
Amanda Smith. Hamilton Terrace,

HE answer to John Don-nelly's question on censor

ship (Letters, December 17) is

utors do not reveal the extent

Film Classification. Letters

sent to the BBFC requesting

swered, but telephone calls to its press office are. More cuts

are made in video versions than films. In other European

countries, by contrast, there is

no film or video censorship. It was being abolished in the for-mer communist states as it

was being increased in nan-

Chair, Campaign Against

Censorship, 23 Budgen Drive, Redhill, Surrey RH1 2QB.

nyist Britain.

(Cllr) E Goodman.

We rearst we canno

are more likely to appear

of cuts by the British Board of

that film and video distrib-

Operating under duress

OUR article about the woman being compelled to have surgery against ber will (Mother vs big brother, December 17) took me back to a dilemma which I as senior registrar in psych-iatry, and the obstetric team found ourselves in at the Mid-dlesex Hospital just over 30

years ago. A lady was haemorrhaging internally from an ectopic pregnancy. I was called in to check on her mental state and to decide whether she should refusing to have an operation to stop the bleeding which would at the same time neces-sitate removing the falloplan tube. It had been explained to her that, without the opera-tion, she would bleed to death. She refused to believe this. Her reasons for refusing were that, three years previously, she had had a ruphired ec-topic pregnancy in her other tube, which had had to be removed. If this operation

were carried out she would never be able to bear a child. chotic, demented, severely subnormal and had no history of psychiatric problems, I decided she could not be put on a Mental Health Section. She left and collapsed in

shock just outside the hosp-ital. She was admitted unconscious to UCH and was oper-ated upon by a team who had not had a refusal from her, because their action was life-

Over the years I have come

OU report (Sellafield storm over plan to increase dis-

charges, December 17) that BNFI plans a "huge increase" in discharges from its Thorp plant. In fact, the company is

seeking an increase in the aerial discharge limit for tri-tium, which will result in an

increase of just 0.05 per cent in the current serial discharge

limit from Thorp. However,

the consequence of increasing

the aerial discharge is that less

tritium remains in the dis-charges to the sea and the com-

pany has therefore sought a reduction in the liquid dis-

Discharge from Sellafield

to realise that intense denial can lead to just as much harm to a person's well-being in the face of a medical problem as

being psychotic.
The Mental Health Act does state that a person can be de-tained: (1) in the interests of the patient's own health; (2) with a view to the protection of others. The obstetricians and myself were very aware of our duty of care to the patient, more aware than she was of the consequences of her refusal. (Dr) D H Morgan. 28 Extons Road,

King's Lynn, Norfolk SSUES of consent and capacity/incapacity to con sent are fundamental and troublesome. In spite of the sterling efforts of the Law Commission in this decade to raise the level of national debate, judges continue to be placed in an untenable

Perhaps a national standing forum on health care law and President's Commission in the US in the 1980s) would provide a more clearly-defined and more representative lead, allowing for wide-ranging and informed debate at the highest

These matters are far too important to be left to judges David Anderson-Ford. 37 Canbury Avenue, Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 6JP.

charge limit to accommodate that. The total overall dis-

charges from Thorp will be

unchanged.
The additional environmen

tal impact to even the people living close to Sellafield will be

three microsieveris a year — which is equivalent to spend

where average natural back-ground radioactivity is three times higher than normal.

British Nuclear Fueis pic,

X POOR OLD PHIL', HIS SOUNDBITES

Batting for Prince Philip

HEN a reactionary, aris-tocratic half-wif is the with tocratic half-wit is the only major figure to say something sensible about Dumblane and the gun ban, it's time to worry (Guns? No more dangerous than cricket bats, says Philip, December 19). Simply to suggest that guns on their own are not dangerous or evil, and that gun-owners are normal, law-abiding people is to contradict a moral consensus constructed around panic, irconstructed around panic, irrationality, victim-worship

and state controls. Rather than attacking free hinkers, we should be asking why victims of tragedy are as-sumed to have special insights into social problems, why politicans prefer moral posturing to politics, and why people are seen as passive, vulneraone another. If the choice is between the authoritarianis of victims and moralists, and the robust comin Prince Philip, then I'm for royalty every time. Matthew Kershaw. Department of Politics University of Newcast Newcastle upon-Type NE1 7RU.

Riske Swann.

Cygnus House, High Street.

THE SIMPLE point is that,

in the 1840s, no govern-nent anywhere in the world

had a clear idea of bow to deal with a major famine. It was

only during the Indian fam-

ines of the following decades

hat a clear and effective set o

policies for dealing with fam-

ne relief was thrashed out.

caused by monsoon failures

Another crop on the famine

HAT Britain was responsible for the genocide in Ireland seems to me not "a Sinn Fein view of history" but common sense (A hunger for justice, December 16). Leaving side the "economic ortho doxy" argument, why was it that Ulster was among the least affected areas while Connacht suffered the most? Answer: because British im-perial policy had forced many native Irish people from the fertile lands of Ulster to the barren ground of the west (capable of sustaining only the potato) through a system atic policy intended to send them "to Heil or Connacht"? And what of the response of

The British were the pioneers of famine relief, not the insti-(Dr) Colin Crouch. Elms Road, Harrow Weald, Middlesez HA3. THE IRISH are never told that at the same time as the Famine, working-class people in England and Scotland were Charles Trevelyan, the civil servant in charge of the relief dying of overwork, cholera, effort, that the Famine was a providential solution to the typhoid, tuberculosis and mal nutrition in very large numproblems of Ireland (that is, the problems of British rule in bers. It was a brutal age for all except the ruling class. Unfor-Ireland), intented to "stabily, the ruling class lise" the population? Joe Guinan. write history. Edwin A Rothwell. Preston Old Road. Blackburn, Lancs BB2. Trent Avenue, Milnrow, Rochdale OL16.

RECALL a character known as the Wolf of Kabul, who featured in the Hotspur comic. He was served by a faithful Afghan subordinate who laid low his enemies with a cricker bat, a weapon which the attendant called his acticky-ha". Perhaps the Duke was a reader of comics in his youth?

Martyn Bedford. 37 Grange Estate, Ukley, W Yorks LS29 8NW.

A Country Diary

. ************************** NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE: The temperature was above freezing, but the dark damp had entered our bones. Four of us, all voluntary wardens mbled on the reserve to clear bramble and bracken from a group of bog myrtle plants, whose pungent scent reminds so many people of walking in Scotland. Soon, coats and hats were removed our dead bones alive again. But how difficult it is to aunch into restorative physical activity when the days are watery, short and overcast.

Another day under the cloud mass, we walked up the Preeli hills following one of the many streams onto the satu-rated hillside. In summer, this walk is more difficult because of the

bracken. The unmistakeable sound of feeding fieldfares led us to a holly tree. The berries, more orange than red, were clustered on the branches like corn on the cob. Some had emi-smothered leaves pushing through the fruity exuber-ance. In the garden, we have watched the three holly trees being carefully picked clean

knowledge receipt at letters.

We may edit them: shorter ones

by blackbirds and fieldfares. The need for food and shelter makes for active birds even in

the most dismal of days. Digging in the garden, I was suddenly in the middle of a bird battle. Two male pere-grine falcons were fighting ferociously above my head. Their speed made it difficult to know what the bone of contention was. It could have been a starling. Every morndown from their Preseli

ing, groups of starlings come roosts to probe and fossick around farms holding cattle or to strut and spear beside the sheep. Once led, they jostle on trees or wires, gossip-ing. They take off as soon as the light moves down. Different groups from a wide area gather until, by the time they have reached the pass at Bwich-gwynt, they are in their thousands. They fly up the hill, skimming the ground. If you stand in their way they undulate over you. The noise of their wings fills your ears. So the peregrines have access to good food for Christmas — may we all!

AUDREY INSCH

A tactful suggestion for the royal gaffer



T the risk of giving offence, it seems clear to me that the theme of the week has been tact. The Duke of Edinburgh a septnagenarian whose two main hobbies have been cheeting and cheeting his shooting and shooting his mouth off — appalled the fam-lies of the Dunblane murder victims and their sympathisers by tactiessly declaring that, if you are going to ban handguns, you might as well look up cricket hats, another potentially lethal sporting implement. Israr Khan, a Mus-lim who teaches at a Birming-

about a food poisoning spidemic — believing the play would be offensive following the 13 deaths from E.coli infection in Scotland.

In public life, tacflessness to the first form of the properties of the first form of the first form of the properties of the first form of the proper takes the form of the "gaffe". The concept of the gaffe has been devalued in recent years

through its indiscriminate to vocation by journalists seek ing to create rows in political parties. But, with his remarks on Radio 5 Live on Thursday night, Prince Philip has estab-lished himself as the true gaffer. It was always one of the better jokes of the age that, when monarchists were con-stantly explaining that the true point of the Royal Family was their role as ambassadors for Britain, the second-in-command at Buckingham Palace wouldn't have got through the first round of Foreign Office exams. The Chinese were "slitty-eyed", Hungarians "pot-bellied", Scots drunkards.

Close textual analysis of lim who teaches at a Birming-ham school, rudely interrupted a rehearsal of the annual carol concert to denounce Mustim students for nounce Mustim students for the BBC has cancelled the BBC has cancelled the BBC has cancelled to interrupted a master of the art. It is for the religious views of the BBC to the property of the BBC to the property of the BBC in the full knowledge that its plot — in which britain's turkeys are revealed to be infected with a killer bug in the run-up to Christmas — was a satire of the BSE/CJD scare, intended to explore the control of the polic to property avoid meaning this week's remarks on gundant that there were channels available to Mr Khan — such as individual discussion with the by the BBC in the full knowledge that its plot — in which Britain's turkeys are revealed to be infected with a killer bug in the run-up to Christmas — was a satire of the BSE/CJD dots' from individual shows not have been invoked? And if, this week's remarks on sum-

The serious public gaffe nearly always involves a meta phor. The late Nicholas Ridley was officied for describing an accident-prone colleague as "sailing with his how doors open" shortly after the Herald Of Free Enterprise ferry had sunk in such circumstances. Metaphor depends on comparison and, as we know from everyday conversation, com-parison (You remind me of ...) is frequently risky. The Duke of Edinburgh — like the late Nicholas Ridley — fool-ishly equated the terrible with

The anger which has been triggered by Israr Khan's in-tervention at the Washwood Heath Secondary School's carol concert rehearsal is also about tact, but in the sense of social protocol. Many will feel that there were channels available to Mr Khan — such as

protective of Islam since the Rushdie fatwa. For what is political correctness but orga-nised and institutionalised tact? A friend of mine, recently discussing a mooted series about the state of the world's main religions with a pro-ducer, expressed worries that he would not be permitted the same freedom of comment in the section on Islam, "Well, of course, you wouldn't," replied the producer briskly.

But it is not only in the matter of religion that, in these morally jumpy times, broad-casters scan the schedules for evidence of taclessoess. The cancellation of Nick Newman and Ian Hislop's play Gobble
— in case it offends the rela-tives of Scotland's E.coli victims - is a perfect example of how confused and hypocritical the pursuit of tactful broad-

casting can become.

Gobble was commissioned by the BBC in the full knowl-

behaviour of press, govern-ment, food industry and public during a national health scare. Now it seems highly unlikely that relatives of any of the people who have died recently from CJD would have been able to watch this play. They might even have considered might even have considered the very concept of a killerthe very concept or a guer-food comedy inappropriate.

The HBC, however, seemed to
have taken the sensible view
that public policy cannot entirely be dictated by isolated
refunts sentiment. Very med private sentiment. Yet, sud-denly, after the death of a Today Personality of the Year broadly equal number of poll, which the Labour Party people from a different nut-ritional virus. Gobble was tempt to rig. Mrs Atkins owes

When I tactlessly raised this matter at a RBC Christmas party this week, the explana-tion from senior management was that "soundings" in Scot-land had revealed that humour about food poisoning would in-deed go down ill north of the border. But why should E.coli relativas he of the positives to others.

again — but should that movie be banned in perpetuity from the BBC? Finally, it is possible to feel a shred of sympathy for the

Duke in that the week of his

own implosion has seen the

simultaneous apotheosis of an-

other of Britain's undiplomats.

Anne Atkins — bigot turned agony aunt — is one of the six names on the shortlist for the judged insensitive and un-transmittable and the BBC position of equal moral stature succumbed to another of its nees as the Wolverhampton teacher Lisa Potts, who risked her life defending her pupils against machete attack - to some operatically tactless remarks about homosexuals in the Church of England. Perhaps Mrs Atkins's skill was to avoid metaphor and simply use noun and verb gaucherie. The obvious conclusion, though, is that, in the game of noblic taste, it is a matter of how you choose your targets; rather like ... but, in this context, such a metaplior would be

صكاب الاعل

Bangladesh's story written in blood

Commentary Martin Woollacott

HE ROAD from the In-HE ROAD from the Indian border to Faridpur in Bangladesh is a long necklace of battered tarmac, on which villages are closely strung like beads. Every half mile or so, among the green of paddy field and coconut grove, there is a scatter of huts, with beaten earth paths to each doorway, or the clutter of bazaer shops

were fanning out from Dhaka of every age, the more senior in an occupation of the provinces as brutal as it was ultiwording while the more mately to prove ineffective. Bangladeshis feared their arrival, then only days away, but they had an unswerving conviction that the world would come to their rescue. This world had to be told what was going on, and for one village along that road, the messengers to hand were two young men who rode in two young men who rode in on a motor bike and had stopped for a drink of green coconut juice. I and a reporter for Daniah Radio, Lassa Jen-sen, were on our way to Far-idpur, where we thought we would be able to meet Awami League leaders and resistance fighters before the Pakistani

calling out suggestions as to wording while the more junior fixed on the visitors an

unwavering Bengali stare.

When the document was finished, and after a suitably large envelope for it had, with some difficulty, been located, it was ceremoniously handed to me As I will it in which the suitable of the me As I will be the suitable of the to me. As I put it in my bag, there was an audible gasp of satisfaction from the villagsatisfaction from the villag-ers. There was nothing in the letter that the world did not, in a general way, already know, yet, as it was passed to us, the weight of this village's simple expectation that jus-tice would be done was passed But Bangladesh turned out

and coconut grove, there is a scatter of huts, with beaten earth paths to each doorway, or the clutter of bazaar shops with tea, grain, and soap laid out on open boards, that marks a larger settlement. In early 1971 it was a road of fear, anger, and a kind of hope. The Pakistani troops, who a month before had smashed the Bangladeshi autonomy movement, massacred intellectuals and student leaders, and imprisoned Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, rounded by a swelling crowd

League leaders and resistance fighters before the Pakistani army got over the Pakistani a wrong set right. That object this week, when the Pakistani commanding general signed an instrument of surrender on the spot where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had proclaimed Bangladesh is right to be far from a simple case of a wrong set right. That object this week, when the Pakistani commanding general signed an instrument of surrender on the spot where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had proclaimed Bangladesh's right to freedom. That was joyfully recalled in Eague leaders and resistance fighters before the Pakistani Army got over the Pakistani Army got over the Pakistani a wrong set right. That object was achieved 25 years ago this week, when the Pakistani commanding general signed an instrument of surrender on the spot where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had proclaimed Bangladesh is in the spot week, when the Pakistani to the spot where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had proclaimed Bangladesh's right to freedom. The transfer of the spot where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had proclaimed Bangladesh's right to freedom. That was joyfully recalled in the spot where Sh

ble nature of violence — on its terrible attractions and frequent uselessness, and on the difficulty of eradicating it once certain sequences have been set in motion.

The Bangladesh victory was followed by a dangerous, bloody period in the sub-conti-nent, during which many of those who had been actors in the Bangladesh drama lost their lives. They included Sheikh Mujib himself, nearly all his immediate family, the principal Awami League lead-ers, and many prominent liberation fighters including General Zia-ur Rahman. In Pakistan and India, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mrs Indira Gandhi were among the vic-tims. To what extent the humiliation of the Pakistani Army in Bangladesh contrib-uted to Bhutto's death, or the uted to Bhutto's death, or the encouragement to Sikh separatism represented by Bangladesh's independence contributed to Mrs Gandhi's, is hard to determine. But they were undoubtedly among the causes, as was the precedent of head of state assasination. Naturally, it was not only the great who lost their lives. It is hard to reconcile those deaths which seemed worthwhile, when the war was being fought, with those which seemed pointless, in its aftermath. It's also hard to

Sheikh Mujib's daughter.
However, Bangladesh also car, bumping down narrow unlit lanes, brought us eventually to a muddled piece of family photograph and an extractions and copen ground between shutters book with notes and copen ground between shutters book with notes and copen ground between shutters are also book with notes and copen ground between shutters are also book with notes and copen ground between shutters are also book with notes and copen ground between shutters are also book with notes and copen ground between shutters are also book with notes and copen ground between shutters are also book with notes and copen ground between shutters are also book with notes and copen ground between shutters are also book with notes and copen ground between shutters are also copen ground between shutters are copen ground between ground open ground between shut-tered stalls. It was absolutely empty except for the dead body of a young man who had been recently shot in the chest. He was good looking and well made, dressed in a khaki military shirt and trou-sers, a middle class boy of perhaps 22. Bodies seen at a distance or contorted and thrown about are one thing, but this was a strange mo-ment of intimacy of a very dif-

> For a second I saw him as his parents would have seen him, a loved one lost, his male beauty wasted in the dirt

a second or two I saw him as his mother, father, or sister would have seen him, as a loved one lost and gone, his male beauty wasted in the dirt. I had not fully understood till then the wine that while, when the war was being fought, with those which seemed pointless, in its aftermath. It's also hard to avoid the conclusion that there was some connection between the two. In late 1971, in Dhaka, I went down, at night, to a bazzar area after hearing that the Mukti Bahini, the Bangladeshi resistance fighters, had been firing stood, till then, the price that

ferent kind. We stood over him like mourners. For a

drawings on the use of the mortar. These almost domestic details, particularly the little blue law of mortars. tle blue jar of precious Nivea, stuck in the mind. Things to be joked about later, when encountering Captain Huda again. But that can never be, since he was killed, barbarously, in one of the coups and counter coups which followed Shelk Mujib's death. The Pakistanis, like other

oppressors before them, were caught in a trap in Bangladesh. There was nothing they could do that could bring them success. Yet they were doomed to try. In the broadest sense, both Pakistanis and Bengalis were victims of an unnatural union which could not be gettined on terms. not be sustained on terms either side could accept. War either side could accept. War performed the function it often discharges, of demonstrating what ought already to have been obvious by writing it in blood. The sacrifices of the war, which these memories are meant to recall, went on long afterwards. The difficult politics of Bangladesh, in which power and legitimacy have been contested gitimacy have been contested between military rulers and civilian politicians, particu-larly those of the Awami League, now again the gov-ernment after a gap of 20 years, were also born in the

various places and forms, is essentially as follows: if perfec-

tion is to be found anywhere in the universe, it is assumed

to exist in God. There may

have been a time when human beings were perfect, but at

reasons, their powers were di-minished, so that they were

forced to live forever in a state of imperfect understanding. Indeed, for us to believe that

among the most serious sins of which we are capable. The Greeks called the sin "hubris". The Christians call it "pride". Scientists call it "dogmatism".

cept our cosmic status as the

knowledge as a fixed commod-

come it. Our students would know that their textbooks are

filled with errors, their teachers' minds are filled with

errors, their own beliefs filled with errors. But they would not be disheartened or

shamed, for they would know that in learning, we may cor-

rect our errors, and that the worst sin is to immunise our-

selves against correction.

Such a curriculum would

others when we aspire to the

I've included three more, and

the best we can come up with.

claim, however, that we need

to begin and to sustain a con-

versation about the meta-

physical basis of schooling, and we must, in the end, find

narratives that are worthy of

such an expensive and time-

least to me; without a tran-scendent and bonourable pur-

pose, achooling must come to

an end, and the sooner we are

done with it, the better. With

such a purpose, schooling be-comes the central institution

knowledge of gods.

era



Martin Kettle

APHAEL Samuel's fu-neral in Highgate Cem-etery this week seemed more than just the funeral of a very remarkable man who has died far too early, at the age of 61. It seemed almost like the funeral of a way of thinking and a wake for an era of the human spirit. To those of us who do not believe in resurrection, it had a kind of wider finality.

If you didn't know Raphael heart-stopping words by Auden, MacNeice, Emily Brontë and John Donne. We didn't sing. Now there's a telltale sign of the confusions of the English left in this country of Eternal Memory. The Internationale would not have been truthful any longer, though I bet that all of us who were there knew the

If you didn't know Raphael Samuel, or if his name means nothing to you, which will be the case for many readers, then I fear it will be hard to explain why this December death seemed so much more than usually conclusive. Sam-uel was a learned and omnivorously enthusiastic histo-rian. He was a tutor of many generations of working-class students at Ruskin College, an inspirational participant in many networks, and a man whose intellectual and politiwhose intellectual and points cal passions were rooted in socialism, in scholarship, and in an unbounded love for the infinite and messy detail of human life.

Yet even if you didn't know him, he probably left his mark on the way that you think about the world. Samuel had an unconditional interest in the past. He believed that history was not merely a tale of kings, queens and gov-ernments, nor even of the long march of the dispossessed towards a society of all for all, though he was hugely interested in both. He loved people's memories and inher-itances, yours, mine, his own, everyone's. Through his work in the Ruskin History Workshop, he was, in spite of his doesn't matter so much now apparent aversion to his own as it once did. celebrity, the presiding genius of the modern reclamation of the day before yes-terday. That book of your dis-trict in old photographs is his

The major theme of the story is that human beings make mistakes. All the time. It ay. I am fairly sure I have made at least two
or three, and I would not be
surprised if some of you have

be had made sure that he
would be. The choice, as Stusurprised if some of you have nouced. That we may be mistaken, and probably are, is the meaning of the "fall" in the may not be London's equivalent of correcting our mistaken. of correcting our mistakes, provided that we proceed the right place to lay to rest both a passionate socialist and without hubris, pride or dog-matism; provided that we aca nonpareil chronicler of Victorian London.

error-prone species.

Were the story of the Fallen
Angel taken seriously in
school, we would have a curriculum that does not see

see who else was there, and lining the muddy and grav-elled avenue that winds its way across the damp and wooded hillside graveyard. Familiar figures from what was once the New Left bent nervously to lift his coffin from the hearse and then carry it, with its huge bunch of blood-red roses, on his last

There was a lone piper. I don't know why, but no matter. We shuffled allently along the path that takes you past Karl Marx's mysteriously troublesome monument, past the lesser and later tombs of socialists who jostle to lie in Marx's shadow, and upwards past the memorials to those who are merely part of the haphazard society that inhabits all urban cemeteries. Then, in a high corner looking down over London, we took up our over London, we took up our places as best we could, while Hall and the others delivered their fine tributes and read heart-stopping words by Auden, MacNeice, Emily Brontë and John Donne.
We didn't sing, Now there's a telltale sign of the confusions of the English left in 1996. We have no equivalent in this country of Eternal Memorial of the country of Eternal Memorial places.

us who were there knew the words. Nor, for different reasons, would a Christian hymn have done for this secular Jew, though a hymn would have come very naturally among well-educated atheists of a certain age. At least we should have sung Jerusalem

Figures from what was once the New Left bent nervously to lift his coffin

And yet that's just it. We cannot honestly sing such songs now. We remember the words and they move us greatly, but I don't think many people believe in them any more. A new Jerusalem? Pardon me while I turn my wall. England Arise? The long. long night is not over and perhaps it never will be Per-haps, perish the thought, it isn't really night after all. Perhaps too, as AJP Taylor once wrote, England has risen all

Mourners tend to have grey hair. Certainly a lot of those legacy, just as much as the self worrying questions, like more learned books of his whether anything survives own that he never quite and whether it all mattered as is our nature to make mistakes. We can scarcely let an hour go by without making Highgate Cemetery and when anyone who was in Highgate not ask themselves such ques-tions under the benevolent shadow of Karl Marx. I cannot believe that many of them came up with stories with happy endings. I suspect that Raphael would not have done so either.

It isn't just romantic Ireland that's dead and gone. It's romantic, optimistic, everyman's England too. Some day Winter, too, is the right time to bury the dead. A lonely time of inner warmth and outer cold. We arrived in our ones and twos, murmuring our greetings, looking to the cemetery, in our lifetime.

School's out, forever

Do your children exist solely to shop, or sit slavishly in front of a computer? Neil Postman argues that schooling needs a whole new rationale if it is to survive

ing of our young, adults have two problems to engineering problem; the other a metaphysical one. The engineering problem is essentially a technical one. It is the problem of the means by which the young will become learned. It addresses the issues of where and when things will be done and how things will be done and how the case out of the wretched rethings will be done, and how cans out of the wretched re-learning is supposed to occur. fuse of teeming shores. problem is not a simp one. It requires some knowledge of applied psychology, group dynamics, the structure of subjects, and practical experience. Any self-respecting teacher will have some ideas about how to solve this

Diary

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problem. Nonetheless, it is important to keep in mind that the engineering of learning can be assigned an importance it schooling. Among them is one doesn't always deserve. What is also needed is a reason for schooling. And this is the metaphysical problem I refer to. A reason, as I use the word large leading the schooling among them is one that goes by the name of the schooling. Among them is one that goes by the name of the rotestant ethic. In this tale, it is claimed that hard work and a disciplined capacity to delay gratification are the surest here, is different from a motivation. Within the context of schooling, motivation refers to a temporary psychic event in which curiosity is aroused type of the same of the sa to a temporary psychic event in which curiosity is aroused and attention is focused. I do ful as they once were. I do not not mean to disparage it. But it must not be confused with a reason for being in a class-room, for listening to a have faded from view, they have faded from view, they have faded from view, they tencher, for taking an exami-nation, for doing homework. for putting up with school even if you are not motivated.

This kind of reason is somewhat abstract, not always in jeopardy.

present in one's consciousness, and not easy to describe. Yet for all that, without it, schooling does not work, no matter how ingeniously it is engineered. For school to make sense, the young, their parents and their teachers must have a god to serve, or, even better, several gods. If they have none, school is pointless. Nietzsche's famous remark is relevant here: "He who has a why to live can bear with almost any how." This applies as much to learning the living the part if must have a god to serve, or, ing as to living. To put it simply, there is no surer way to bring an end to schooling

than for it to have no end.
I use the word "god" to mean a transcendent narrative, one that constructs ideals, prescribes rules of in this tale, the young are told conduct, provides a source of authority and gives a sense of authority and gives a sense of God's favour is to buy things. continuity and purpose. It tells them that they are, not There was a time when we what they do, but what they offered our children such narratives which, in effect, were answers to the question: what are schools for? There was in America, for example, the the most toys wins." great story of democracy whose first chapter opens with "in the beginning, there was a revolution". As the story unfolds, there arise sured words such as "gov-ernment of the people, by the people and for the people". Because he helped to write the story. Thomas Jefferson,

The value of School

The Value

N CONSIDERING how to conduct the schooling of our young adults yearning to breathe free," she wrote. Where else, save the solve: one of them is an great narrative of Jesus, can ils are to provide the los and lonely with a common attachment to America's history and future, to America's sacred symbols, to its promise of freedom.

There have been, of course, other narratives that have served to give guidance and inspiration to people, and, es-pecially, that have helped to give a transcendent purpose to

have been replaced by stories that are thin, crass, and cer-tainly without transcendent meaning. As a consequence, the idea of schooling is pisced

MONG the present answers to the question, schools for?, there is, first of all, the god of economic util-ity which tells the young that they are what they do for a living and that therefore the main purpose of learning is to prepare them for entry into economic life. The idea is to teach the young how to make a living, not how to make a life, which has always seemed to me the point of education. as it was to Jefferson, Horace Mann, and John Dewey. Related to the god of eco-

nomic utility is its unholy son, the god of consumership. In this tale, the young are told what they do, but what they own. Its principal command-ment is conveyed in the slogan that appears on some t-shirts: "Whoever dies with

make them become. What has



that would give point to edu-cation. And here I should like sists that the main purpose of learning is to help the young to accommodate themselves to technological change, to become what the technology will make them. this led to? A technocrat's but it is a story that evokes in dream. The president of the United States announces that ponsibility and commitment. the story. I nomes centered the states amounces that the Moses of the great democracy-god, knew what schools were for — to ensure that cuitzens would know when and how to protect their liferty.

At the base of the Statue of At the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York, there is a poem by Smms Lazarus that celebrates another once-powerful American narrative.

Brazilian problem, the pollution of the oceans is not a Miami problem, the depletion of the ozone layer is not an Australian problem. It follows from this that genocide is not a Bosnian problem, hunger not a Somalian problem, polit-ical oppression not a Chinese problem. "Never send to know

a vision of the future and a commitment to the present.

A second possible narrative is one I call the story of the Fallen Angel. I use a religious metaphor here to emphasise the point that what I shall describe is not merely a comes the central institution method or an epistemology but a narrative, and one of almost universal acceptance.

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A workhorse glad to be grey

trolled expansion in the good

times and when recession came was still plodding along

while Burton, Storehouse and

Next courted bankruptcy.

Then Woolworth went hay-

Reputations

ROGER COWE on the man who played Santa at Woolworth's

BOFF MILCARY is the nearest the gets to Father Christmas. As chief executive of the Kingfisher group he is in charge of Woolworth, which takes a tenth of its £1.4 billion annual turnover in Christmas week, selling 10.5 per cent of Brit-ain's toys, 14.5 per cent of this Christmas's CDs, tapes and videos, and a fair chunk

IN YOUR LOCAL

He is not one of those retailers who worked their way up from the shop floor and can't enter a store without adjusting the displays. Indeed, one of that 1980s breed told him: "You'll never be a real retailer, you've got an MRA." Mulcahy is a businessman, with all the greyness that con-veys. "One of the 10 most tedious men in the world," snapped one critic. He has a wry sense of humour, but the okes are usually kept to himself. He used to tell managers

and that the maxim about it being better to take part was completely wrong. "I believe in winning," he says.

Halpern, Terence Couran and George Davies bestrode the high street, greyness seemed His passion is for profit margins, stock turnover, the supply chain — and for work He works a day and a half every day, as one former coleague put it, and drops into

that business should be fun

"If you go out and trot



from the housing downsturn and a price war, Comet con-tinued to bleed compared to arch-rival Dixons and even tant. If they don't, the business won't run properly." In the 1980s, when Ralph Superdrug seemed to lose its way. Several directors de-parted and Mulcahy was demoted from chairman to chief a disadvantage. But King-fisher's management con-

VI 1.62 - 201 III

Visit One Of Our

Now Kingfisher has bounced back, with the City expecting a 30 per cent leap to record profits when Mulcahy delivers his next figures in the spring. But there are still those who doubt Mulcahy's as you can get from a jolly faster than you can with com- market leader B&Q suffered ness, inscrutability and the

Mulcahy's way with figures

THE struggling Wool-worth chain was bought in 1982 by a financial con-sortium. Paternoster, which injected a new team including Geoff Mulcahy as

Mulcahy moved up to chief executive in 1984. He oversaw the rapid expan-sion of B&Q and acquired Comst. In 1986 he faced a takeover bid from Dixons which was narrowly defeated. The Superdrug spent the last couple of chain was acquired and the repairing the damage.

chap's not a retailer. He shows a trace of irrita-

into something that works.

thusiastic about running a ball-bearing plant, an oil com-

which is what he did, at Esso,

Norton Abrasives and British

pany or a sugar factory

a high degree of profe

love of the busine

to Kingfisher in 1988. Wool-worth store ranges were cut and the culling continned, releasing cash for investment in B&Q. In 1989 Mulcahy's at

tempt to buy Dixons failed. He bought French electri-cal retailer Darty in 1993. Recession hit B&Q and Comet, and attempts to update Woolworth's systems led to chaos. Mulcahy has spent the last couple of years

fact that, damn it all, the Even admirers agree that Mulcaby is cautious to the point of corporate inactivity. tion at this: "What is a retailer? A lot of businesses But his caution has some times been proved right. When the buy-in group was have been built by personal-ities. But you have to have the ability to translate ideas doing its sums before bidding for Woolworth, Mulcahy chafed at the assumption tha "I don't go along with the personality cult, but I have tried to build a business and manage it profilably. It needs they could achieve the 6 per cent sales growth needed to make the takeover work. He was right, but astonishing success at B&Q saved the

tunities, such as the Staples office products joint venture. One analyst says: "He's a great strategic thinker but he takes far too long to make up Sugar before becoming part of his mind."

the team which bought Wool-worth in 1982. OMMUNICATION arills are not his strong point. Nigel Whittaker, Mul-Some observers believe Mulcahy's retailing creden-tials were confirmed after caby's main inter-mediary with the outside world until he fell victim in things went wrong in the 1990s. The group had been gal-vanised by a takeover bid the clear-out, acknowledges the difficulty: "He has an from Dixons in 1986 and, with the financial and communicaunderstated style of commu-nication which requires a tion skills of Archie Norman, became a City favourite. Then Archie left to sort out Asda skilled listener.'

Others are less kind: "He'll say: The thing you've got to remember is...' and go on at and as one observer put it:
"Geoff went to sleep a bit." In 1993, under pressure to split his role as chairman and chief executive, Mulcahy great length giving the chose the chair, bringing in a Marks & Spencer executive as

the story. "I don't make a song and dance. It's not my way. But I have a record to be proud of. We have built a very successful business. In 1962 it was worth about 2300 million. chief exective.
"He made the wrong move. He should have got a strong non-executive chairman. He was always going to be inter-

fering," says one analyst.

Last year's bloodbath returned Mulcahy to the driving seat. Profits have \$4 billion."

He is still not satisfied. On

Mulcahy lets the figures tell Now it's worth about

bounced back, but how much is that due to Mulcahy and how much a natural bounce as mistakes were put right and the economy improved? We'll do better next year."

Industry shapes up to future

Continued from page 20 face of British industry, led by a portfolio of photographs

As the election campaign gets under way, the series is an attempt to mark where British manufacturing really stands as the millennium

On these pages we canvass the views of five leading figures in industry on the

strengths and weaknesses of manufacturing today.

As politicians know, any view is highly selective. What is surprising is the degree of consensus that emerges from the commentators. Often they ight on shullar terrain. There is a feeling of consid-

erable optimism that even with a shrunken manufacturing work force more British companies have a greater chance of joining the top ranks of world competitive-ness. There is a feeling, too, that Britain can still narrow the productivity gap which has left it lagging so far be-hind its most important

If they cannot agree that the privatised utilities are delivering cheaper energy and telecoms services to industry - a moot point — then they both acknowledge that British Steel has prospered as a privatised firm, and one which can be relatively sanguine about a sales-sapping appreciation of sterling in the knowledge that many of its

competitors have a long way to go to match its efficiencies. Even if they argue over the quality of jobs brought in on the inward investment boom. they can recognise the galva-

nising effect of inward investment on work practices.

There is, above all, agree ment that there are two real threats to Britain's perfor-mance in the new century; its inability to bolster the small

and medium-sized company sector — the only place in an company downsizing where real employment growth can come — and a fear that unless Britain sorts out its priorities in education and vocational training it will be perma-nently hobbled.

Britain's industrial performance may be showing signs of improvement, but it is salutary that already - so soon into an economic upswing and with unemployment apparently on a downward tions are warning that the spectre of skills shortages has

returned. Industrialists no longer talk only of improving adult training programmes as a sort of panacea for better perfor-mance. Now they are arguing about secondary and primary schools, and refusing to be depressed as the political par-ties vie recklessly for political

Yet the one issue which is only now struggling on to the agenda is job insecurity — a feature of both the manufac-turing and the service sectors whose effect on economic performance and competitiveness, some believe, has

scarcely been guessed at.
The price of Britain's much
vaunted flexible labour market — with the dramatic shift to part-time, temporary and short-term contract work has been a sort of institutionalised insecurity as familiar to shop-floor workers as middle manag

It can only be a matter of time before the manufactur-ers who are building long-term partnerships with their suppliers realise that a similar contract with their em-ployees is the only way to guarantee performance, par-ticipation and success.

Shareholders. are bleeding companies dry

AM struck by the weak-nesses rather than the strengths of British indus-try. The balance of pay-ments is pretty dire and I worry that it is not only negative in manufacturing but in services as well.

The Government white was right. The challenge is to raise the level of under-achievers to the level of the Government has no plans to do that. British companies underperform on training so why are there no inducements to improve? I would go for a modern levy/grant system to fund more training.

There are some good per-formers, but in too many areas we're dependent on imports, and UK-based companies lack large world market share. This should be a top priority for any

who bleed too much money from companies. That means lowering the rate of return and encouraging investment in people and in vestment in people and in mew equipment. We also new equipment. We also pick-up in supply, and that could lead to capacity constraints. ployers and company direc-tors could start by realising that huge pay increases are perceived as demoralising

and cynical by employees.

John Monks, TUC general secretary

Flexibility has become a strength

ONE of the main strengths of British industry that has become apparent in the past few years is the more flexible use of labour — and that is particularly good news

in an upturn. Companies are much more aware of training and develforce and seem to be spending more money on training, so they are getting better value out of staff. But our members have clear concerns about the education system and the quality of people companies have to work with

Devaluation in 1992 was against a background of recession but exports went up and imports didn't grow as quickly, so now we are optimistic whereas 10 to 15 years ago we were depressed. Dealing with devaluation may not be a weakness, but how indus-try will respond to the appre-ciation of sterling could be.

One of the challenges going into the millennium is to tackle the shareholders who bleed too much money from comparison.

And investment is not just nvestment by companies. Inadequate investment in infra-structure could make life very difficult for UK firms. 200 S

doise:

Kate Barker, chief economist, CBI

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Chirac seeking flexible friends

Euro Eye

Mark Milner

NE of the questions Prance's president Jac-ques Chirac will have to chew on over Christmas is who to appoint to the Banque de France's monetary council. Two of the nine strong council responsible for set-ting French interest rates have to be reappointed or replaced by the beginning of January.

The process is being watched with perticular in-terest by the financial mar-kets and is apparently prov-ing complicated because the three men who have the job of nominating would-be mem-bers are divided.

counterpart in the lower house, Phillipe Seguin, and Jean Matteoli, head of the Reonomic and Social Council. Normally they would be ex-pected to put forward a slate of six names from which Mr Chirac would choose two. This time the three are so split that they are each put-ting forward their own lists of

The decision on who to ap-

point to the council will be seen as a key policy signal. According to an analysis by the French bank, Paribas, the nine strong council is domi-nated by those who believe in the tough policy of the franc fort and the interest policy needed to sustain the franc's position against the German mark. Parihas reckons six of the council are hawks, two are doves and one is de-

scribed as neutral to dovish. That has kept the balance of power within the council firmly in favour of the franc fort, despite pressures within France for a softer currency

Under the present struc- gue that allowing the cur- a move.

ture, the names of candidates are put forward by Senate president Rana Monory, his to cut short term interest to cut short term interest rates, which in turn would help stir France's sluggish economy into sufficient growth to make a sizeable dent in the country's unemployment total. But both the council mem-

bers whose terms expire next month, banker Bruno de Maulde and former journalist Jean Boissonnat, are deemed to be in the hawks' camp. If they were replaced by doves then the balance of power would be much more delicate. Given the views of Mr Seguin, who campaigned for a no vote in the French referendum on Maastricht and groe Seguin. Maastricht and who favours a weaker franc and lower rates,
Mr Chirac is likely to have
the option of changing the
prevailing climate of opinion within the council.

He will also be aware that he will not get a further opportunity until 1999.

The snag for Mr Chirac is that while there is increasing demostic support for an easy

domestic support for an easing of the franc fort policy, his rance for a softer currency European partners — not least in Germany — are un-Critics of the franc fort ar-

German commentators are already critical, for example, of the French pressure to build more "flexibility" into the stability which is meant to ensure post-monetary union budgetary rectitude

union budgetary rectitude and would be quick to pounce on any further evidence of what might be interpeted as French backsliding.

Mr Chirac is unlikely to find the alternatives politically appealing. One would be to tackle the problem head on According to a number of According to a number of economists, however, that would require a thorough reform of the labour market.

Another, perhaps the most likely, would be to try to soldier on and home the account. dier on and hope the economy picks up sufficiently to dent the jobless total — though French patience may prove limited.

Perhaps the best Mr Chicac can hope for is a Christmas present from the Americans in the form of a stronger dollar. That would help both the Germans and the French on the currency and interest rate fronts.

In the meantime Mr Chirac might prefer to have a few flexible friends in the right

Or Call Direct

Imro levies record compensation sum over fund-management scandal – with hefty fine still to come | Notebook

Morgan must pay £200m

Patrick Donovan

TO 90,000 investors in unit trusts operated by for-mer Morgan Gren-fell fund manager Peter Young stand to receive about £200 million in the biggest compensation programme ever ordered by City

The pay-out, which was announced yesterday by the watchdog Imro, is aimed at reimbursing all unit trust holders who lost money through Mr Young's unauthorised investment activities.

under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office over his gan Grenfell trusts were invested. Five other senior managers have been sacked over the affair.

The eventual bill for Mor-

rise evential full for kan-gan Granfell seems certain to rise further as the Deutsche Bank subsidiary faces the prospect of a huge fine from Imro for infringing its rules. Analysts speculated yester-day that the cent to Deutsche day that the cost to Deutsche for rehabilitating the reguta-tion of one of Britain's lead-

ment trusts which led to the reach \$500 million. This is be-sacking of Mr Young. The 38- cause the £200 million compensation package comes on top of the £180 million spent by Deutsche Bank to ball out alleged role in establishing a Morgan Grenfell by buying secret web of companies in back unlisted securities held in funds placed with Mor-

Any investor with money. held in European funds operated by the "rogue" manager between August 1, 1995 and September 5 this year will qualify for compensation. The aim is to give investors the difference between the money they earnt from the troubled Morgan Grenfell trusts and the average return from com-

package underlined its com-mitment to ensure that no inestors would natter loss imro said letters would be ent to all investors detailing their entitlement to compen

sation. Imro director Daniel Waters said: "We are pleased that these discussions have been brought to a speedy con-clusion. It is in the interests of investors that compensa-tion will be paid without undue delay. Imro believes that this agreement is a fair and equitable one which safeguards the interests of inves

The regulator added that the pay-out represented the "difference between the inence between the in-

the running of three invest- ing fund managers could iterday that the compensation i Morgan Grenfell fund and the i on how much the company is by a specially compiled index of comparable funds from Micropal data. In addition, Morgan Grenfell will be paying interest on the compensation

The package represents by far the biggest compensation lar the niggest compensation levied by Imro. This year. Save & Prosper was ordered to return £69,000 to investors, while Credit Suisse paid out

Neither Imro nor Morgan Grenfell would specify the size of the compensation package. Sources close to the negotiations confirm, however, that the figure is around c200 million

Previous penalties ordered Lowndes in 1993, Senior exec utives involved in the Barings Bank scandal were fined only £10,000 each.

The compensation was an-nounced after an exhaustive investigation by Imro, including inquiries into the role of Michael Dobson, the chief executive of the whole inves ment banking operation and a director of Deutsche Bank.

It is also concerned that fromer trustees of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management may not have exercised with sufficient diligence their task

earn their keep

Busy regulators



Edited by Mark Milner

HESE are busy times for Britain's utilities regula-tors, Yesterday Oftel (telecommunications) argued its powers in the High Court, Ofwat (water) criticised eight water-only companies for non-compliance with its guidelines, and Railtrack's regulator, John Swift, casti-gated the company because of its failure to keep up with its infrastructure spending time-

the late running of its invest-ment and maintenance programme runs along similar lines to the famous "wrong kind of snow" excuse. The Treasury may be synony-mous with parsimony but for Railtrack to argue, as it has, that it had been so used to a tight-fisted regime in the pub-lic sector it has difficulty, even in the liberating atmo-sphere of the private sector, in spending money fast enough is a bit rich.

Ofwat's concerns are rather different. It believes some of the water-only companies owned by multi-nationals are not conducting their trading relationships with other com-panies in the same group on a sufficiently arm's length basis. It found the same problem at 10 water and sewage companies earlier in the year, yet the guidelines on the issue were drawn up more than two

years ago. Ian Byatt, Ofwat's directorgeneral, is promising to take action in the 1999 price review unless companies sharpen up their compliance

with the guidelines, and he is surely right to do so. Oftel has, perhaps, more reason than its fellow regula-tors for a little festive cheer. The High Court has backed its claims to be able to rule on anti-competitive practices. BT, which asked for the court's view, has not yet indicated if it is prepared to take surely be best advised to ac-cept the court's judgment

Each of the issues is important enough in its own right.
Taking the three together makes a broader point. They demonstrate not only the importance of the regulators but also the thinness of govern-ment claims about the impact of market forces within the utilities sector.

Computing EMU

mean Europe's derivatives exchanges will have fewer products to trade, thus intensifying what is already a dog fight for market share.

The drive towards EMU has, however, already of their circumstances is probspawned a new derivative product—albeit one which is unlikely to make its presence | The economy ought to be a relation the exchanges trading | The economy ought to be a vote-winner for the Tories

floors.

Banks around Europe are catching on to the fact that they will need to ensure they

after this month's record drop in unemployment. Yet voters refuse to be convinced. Mr

Clarke must be hoping for a

which they are based are "in

The clock is ticking. The Bank of England, for example, warned British banks in May that they needed to make sure that their wholesale opera-tions, if not the retail side of the business (the one that deals with you and me), was prepared for EMU. Even in France and Germany, how-ever, some banks are only now commissioning "impact studies", which can take several months to carry out, to decide what actions they need to take.

technology companies with expertise in the field are suddenly finding that demand for their services has taken off. For them Christmas started at the beginning of the month. Their resources, although not inflexible, are finite. In the run-up to January 1, 1999 (the date set for participating countries to lock their exchange rates), demand could well outstrip supply, not least because companies will also have to cope with the repro-

As a result, information

gramming demands caused by the year 2000. This is just the sort of de-mand/supply uncertainty for which derivative products were designed. Enter then a Swedish bank which has taken out what amounts to a futures contract with the computer services company Cap Gemini — effectively buying in advance a guaran-tee of sufficient of Cap Gemini's resources to ensure that its systems will be ready for monetary union. Could there be scope for a secondary market?

Confidence trick

WO weeks ago, Tory Eurosceptics were call-ing for the head of Kenneth Clarke. This week they have fallen strangely silent as the Chancallor has unveiled ligure after figure showing the economy in rude health.
Mr Clarke's week was

crowned with yesterday's news that living standards have risen at a rate not seen since the pinnacle of yupple-dom, eight years ago. The Chancellor clearly

hopes that this Christmas bo-nus from the economy will pay political dividends for the run-up to a spring election. Yet, although the figures show that real personal dis-posable income is increasing at levels not seen since the party days of 1988, the feel-good factor continues to sluds

the Tories. Barometers of consumer confidence show that, whatever the statistics say, most households do not feel their financial situation has improved in the past year. Half of the households in the Euro-pean Commission Confidence survey report that their fi-nancial situation has stayed AT your hearts out Liffe,
Matif and the DTB. As
the Bank for International Settlements noted
recently, monetary union will the households interviewed in the most recent round, in early December, say their sit-uation has improved.

The discrepancy between the official figures and people's subjective assessment are ready for the single cur-rency whether (that familiar ternative is the return of the phrase) the countries in Eurosceptic chorus.

BT loses watchdog challenge

Nicholas Bannister on the High Court's landmark ruling for utilities regulation

RITISH Telecom's attempt to curb the powers of industry regulator Cruickshank was thrown out yesterday by the High Court in a landmark decision for utilities regulation.

The telecom group had claimed that Mr Cruickshank exceeded his authority when he successfully sought the inclusion in BT's licence of a catch-all clause outlawing anti-competitive behaviour.

But Lord Justice Phillips and Mr Justice Hooper dis-missed BT's application for a initial review, poured scorn on some of the arguments advanced by BT, and ordered the group to pay Oftel's cost.

Their decision that Mr Cruickshank, the director trade and Industry Secretary Secr on some of the arguments ad-vanced by BT, and ordered general of Oftel, had acted within his powers will open the way for regulators of

other utilities to include similar conditions in licences. The most immediate need is within the gas and electricity industries which are moving towards full competition in the business and residential markets from April, 1998.

Water companies, more natural local monopolies than their gas and electricity counterparts, are also facing competition for the business of

large commercial users.

John Butler, BT's director of regulatory affairs, said a decision whether to appeal would be taken at board level probably early in the new year even though the new licence amendment comes into effect on December 31.

However the court ruling,

Celiz Weston

warned.

division.

from April.

MISERABLE Christ-

than 1,200 workers in

mas is in store for more

Scotland who were yesterday made redundant or told their

jobs could be shed at the Nor-

wegian-owned Kvaerner Go-

van shipyard in Glasgow un-less new orders can be

confirmed, the management

johs at the Scottish bakery chair Crawfords. Another 394 will not know until the new

year whether the company's receivers have succeeded in

finding a buyer for the chain's

37 shops and its restaurant

Kyaerner Govan, one of Brit-

ain's few remaining commer-

cial shipbuilders, employs 1,400 people, it said the delay in learning whether it had won

a tender for new work had left

the company with no alterna-

tive but to prepare for the

worst. Jobs may need to be cut

And 336 staff have lost their

Up to 500 manual and staff

jobs were under threat.

1,200 Scots

get job shock

for Christmas

companies earlier this week, would be "helpful" in persuading US authorities that

there were no competition barriers to BT's planned \$14 billion takeover of MCI.

BT said it had spent "well under £1 million" challenging the legality of Mr Cruickshank's action. It had earlier said to the terminal particular legal extensions. said it was taking legal action because it was in the interest of public and shareholders that the extent of the regulator's powers should be determined. Mr Cruickshank said yes

terday's ruling ended a period of uncertainty for the telecommunications industry. He would be including the fair trading conditions in the li-cences of other operators. Oftel had made its decision to remove a large proportion of BT's business activities from price controls conditional

and the Monopolies Commisgion and that the new clau was not sufficiently specific and could be used to break up its telecom network.

They dismissed as "absurd" a claim by BT's QC, Roger Henderson, that the wording of the new clause meant it could have an effect outside the telecom industry for which Mr Cruickshank had responsibility. The judges said that it plainly only applied to people as "users of telecom services".

Mr Cruickshank has been frustrated by the long drawn-out procedures for dealing with allegations of anti-competitive behaviour by BT, and wanted a swifter method of dealing with complaints.
BT claimed that the new

clause put too much power in the hands of one individual, together with the Government's granting of interna-

Sigbjorn Ellingsen, manag-ing director, said: "I very much regret having to make this announcement on the eve

of the Christmas and new year holidays. We have delayed as

yard's international competi-



On the waterfront . . . the sacked Liverpool dockers picketing the port gates

Sacked dockers reject offer

Martyn Heissil Northern Industrial

HE MERSEY dockers sacked 15 months ago yesterday threatened the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company with an inter-national boycott after over-whelmingly rejecting their former employer's final peace

against accepting a pay and jobs package offering £28,000 will mean unrelenting picket would stay on the table until to 329 former MDHC employing at dock gates. Dockers' December 31 so that a secret ees, sacked after refusing to cross another company's picket line. They were also of-fered the chance to apply for up to 40 jobs in the port.

After the mass meeting in Liverpool, dockers' leaders said the men remained deterwhelmingly rejecting their said the men remained deter-braner employer's final peace sacked — including those dis-missed by other port employ-lers — should be given the

ing at dock gates. Dockers' leaders will call for an inter-national boycott of the port of the port shop stewards, said: cent of the dockers r That means there will be a sn earlier settlement. position of the MDHC, which

suade them to negotiate our Unveiling the new offer on T&GWU.

ballot could be conducted. Mike Carden, another shop Liverpool on January 20. steward, said the last postal Jimmy Nolan, chairman of ballot in January led to 84 per cent of the dockers rejecting The latest deal followed tri-partite talks this week at the

Acas conciliation service, involving the MDHC, the dockers and their union, the

Economy in best shape for a generation, says Clarke long as we possibly could, be-cause we had boped to clinch a major order." The strength of the pound was not beloing the

CHANCELLOR Kenneth Clarke boasted yesterday tiveness, he said. Govan is completing work that the economy will enter on a mission control command the new year in the best shape for a generation as official fig-ures showed the biggest jump in living standards since the vessel for commercial satel-lites and has recently won an order for a 36,800-tonne chemiheight of the Nigel Lawson cal carrier to be delivered in boom in 1988. March 1988, but it has no other Real disposable income

orders. Staff at Crawfords, founded grew by 0.8 per cent in the three months to September in 1899, were warned after the compared with the preceding three months, taking the firm went into receivership in September that a decision annual rate to 4.6 per cent, acwould have to be taken on job osses before Christmas.

John Laurie, the joint office for National Statistics.

Freeiver and a partner with receiver and a partner with losses before Christmas.

receiver and a partner with Coopers & Lybrand, said: "We consumer expenditure continues to be the driving force behave explored every option available to sell the business as hind the economy's progress, up 3.2 per cent on this time going concerns. It has become impossible to continue to trade last year. the whole business and unfor-tunately the job losses are a consequence of this." Output in the economy as a

whole expanded more slowly than spending, with an increase of 2.4 per cent year-on-year. In the three months to September, growth was 0.7 per cent - lower than earlier predictions. The revised figthe quarters — the result of the distance of the strengthening pound.

The revised figthe quarters — the result of the strengthening pound.

Britain's surplus in services only is picking up too fast.

However, some analysts are vious quarter at \$1.8 million.

The revised figthe quarters — the result of the last usant last many assumed from Sir
John's comments that Tarmac thought this project was just too damaging to the same as the previous quarter at \$1.8 million.

Tarmac shares closed unchanged at 94%p.

worried about the inflationary implications of consumer pending continually out stripping the growth rate of the economy. They fear this trend will be accentuated by the latest round of tax cuts

showed that robust consumer demand has not yet caused the problems for the balance railed previous recoverles.

The current account crept back into the red in the third quarter with a deficit of £100 million, but the deterioration was the result of a decline in investment income, rather than a surge in imported

goods was lower than in the previous quarter — \$2.9 billion in the red com-pared to £3.2 billion in the three months to June. This was due mainly to the rise in the value of exports between

Newbury bypass cement deal cracks Tarmac's green facade

TARMAC, the self-styled "green" construction group, is supplying con-crete to the controversial Newbury bypass, despite insisting earlier this year that it would not be involved with the project in the absence of strict envi-

cate that Tarmac is supplying its Topmix product to the scheme.

ham, Tarmac's chairman, promised that if the group lion Newbury contract it would insist it was built in the most environmentally friendly way possible. In the event, Tarmac's strug-gling rival, Costain, won

react to this news with a good deal of alarm." However, a spokesman for Tarmac insisted that the company had never

ruled out being involved in the Newbury project, and that as a subcontractor it was only playing a minor part in the scheme. He said Sir John had only promised to ask the High-

ways Agency to ensure the road was built to high environmental standards. "We thought we had a good record, but when environmentalists started at-

tending our agms we real-ised we had not done such a good job promoting it. the best environmental record in the industry, but at the end of the day we are still quarrying and build-

been ordered to repay £19.9 million to the Gov ernment, following the resolution over a four-year dispute over its purchase of

News in brief Risk of gas supply cuts

The gas industry regulator warned last night that there was a greater risk of customers on interruptible contracts including power stations
 and hospitals — being cut off this winter, adding to fears that cold weather and increased demand could hit en-

ergy supplies.

Premier Farnell will make a profit of £70 million on the sale of its volume electronic services business to Arrow Electronics for \$300 million

Rocco's rest Sir Rocco Forte is in the run-

ning to open a 200-bedroom hotel on London's Trafalgar Square, opposite the National Gallery. He also plans to open ing roads."

Meanwhile, Tarmac has a luxury hotel in Cardiff.

> Amec buys Amec, the engineering and construction group, is to pay £20 million £23 million for a

stake in Spie Batignolles, a French electrical group, pav-ing the way for a merger that could make it Europe's sixth-

Fate of power firm in balance

Chris Karris and Lina Saigol

THE fate of Northern Elec-tric hung in the balance last night as the Takeover Panel allowed American predator CE Electric to delay until midnight the outcome of its £782 million hostile bid. The delay, granted at the request of the American utility, extended the bid period

for seven hours amid indications that shareholders were evenly divided over the merits of the 650p-a-share offer. There was speculation in

the City that the delay meant the bid had run into difficulties. Sources also suggested there may have been problems counting the returns from the large number of small shareholders in the north of England.

Two years ago Trafalgar House failed to buy the Newcastle-based firm. CE Electric, owned by Ne-braska-based CalEnergy and

Peter Kiewit Sons, has already bought close to 30 per cent of the company and has acceptances for another 4 per cent.

2 MM

and Television

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416

2000

Flexibits

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100 Acres 1

TOURIST RATES -- BANK SELLS Australia 2 032 Austria 17.75 Balgium 51 92 Canada 2.22 France 8.49 Germany 2.53 Greece 403.60 Greece 403.60 Hong Kong 12.57 India 59.60 Ireland 0.977 Israel 5.45 Cyprus 0 761

haty 2,502 Netherlands 2,83 New Zealand 2,286 Norway 10,52 Portugal 255.40 Saudi Arabia 6,20

and the promise of windfall gains for building society ac-count holders. Despite these concerns, separate figures from the ONS

of payments that have de-

The deficit on trade in

lan King

ronmental standards.

Documents obtained by Friends of the Earth and seen by the Guardian indi-

The news comes seven mouths after Sir John Ban-

the contract. A spokesman for Friends of the Earth said last night:

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer . Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Manufacturing a revolution

Is British industry back? Guardian writers and photographer Don McPhee have been finding out. Simon Beavis opens a series of reports and representative voices assess The Real Picture

tive Party orthodoxy that in the past 17 years Britain has begun to arrest 100 years of eco-nomic decline. Read any one of the three white papers on competitiveness produced by Michael Hesel-tine and that is the clear subtext. Prepare to hear a lot more of it ahead of the

But for all the radical changes brought in by the Government during the 1980s from privatisation to trade union reform to opening the flood gates for inward investment — the claim is disingen-uous, as most manufacturers will testify. It is only relatively recently — since the fall of Margaret Thatcher — that Tory politicians realised they could no longer pretend manufacturing didn't matter.

Yet that was the overarching belief which formed industrial policy in the Thatcher years. The future lay in the service sector, industry was an increasing ir-

This attitude — which was Tais attitude — which was lapped up with arrogant certainty in the City and translated into a damaging short-termism — left British industry as bereft and battered as would any regime of its party had shifted.

Next week the Citarrier powerful trade union rights

Design

Coordinator

Sales

Executive

caught in fundamental de-bates which in a more rational economy would be seen as an indulgence. Like how to stimulate essential investment in industry — the CBI promises for next year one of the most significant investi-gations into Britain's poor in-

Or like the telling compla-cency underlying the pre-sumption that because the trade deficit in manufactur-ing goods is now forecast to be only £8 billion in 1997 fust under half of its 1989 peak - everything is somehow all

right.
The context has begun to change, however. The election campaign will see both main political parties vying vigorously for the business vote Every time the Conservations of the conservat vatives draw on an OECD survey showing Britain topping the growth league of the G7 countries, Labour will point to other evidence showing that Britain has slumped from 13th to 18th in the world prosperity ratings, behind



We need to apply our technology

Production

Designer

Marketing

Assistan

Despatch

Manager

prosperity ratings, behind Hong Kong and Singapore.
But one important fact remains: John Major could not have made the alightest claim to speak for this constituency unless attitudes within his party had shifted.
Next week, the Guardian begins a series on the new turn to page 10, column 7

Next words and the service sector, but we are less good at applied technology.

We need to get big and smaller companies together to push technology through the system: smaller companies together to push technology through the system: smaller companies together to push technology more quickly, particularly information technology and particularly in the service sector, because fundamental research needs to be better applied in the market.

the UK is beginning to show it understands labour mar-kets and how to use them

More professional management, with people who've been trained for their job, combined with greater employee involvment, more responsibility devolved and better communications are all significant changes which have occurred in recent years.

The challenge for the mil-lennium is that businesses will be market driven. Companies will have to know how to respond quickly and appropriately to customers worldwide who will buy their products

market share; how to create a feeling that a com-pany is good at responding company which can be trusted.

Sir David Simon,

Thriving small firms hold key

FEEL more optimistic than I have for many years. The fundamental problems still remain. Inadequate investmand for the new and im-proved. The question remains, however, do we have enough entrepreneurs, ment in training, woefully in-adequate investment in state managers and work forces with the aspiration and deterof the art machinery and in the development of new prod-ucts and processes — and on top of this we still lack a sup-portive capital structure.

However, I meet increasing numbers of small and me dium-sized companies which have had the aspiration, drive and tenacity to establish worldwide positions and lead-ership in niche markets. It is on these hidden champions that the country's economic future lies.

future lies.

It has been our failure to grow small business into large that is the root cause of our decline, coupled with a hangover of a very strong anti-manufacturing culture.

There is still too little provision of stortup finence and sion of start-up finance and almost no long-term finance. Small companies rely on overdrafts and there is little risk capital on offer. Sadly there is no sign of change and four out of five small businesses which start up fail within five years.

Nevertheless, I can now produce examples of manufacturing companies in every region which have proven their ability to take on the

Two other trends give me cheer. firstly the impact of Far Eastern inward investment on the supply chain has forced more suppliers to adopt standards and consis-tency of quality which are prerequisities to any company being world class. Secondly in our largest

companies we are developing a number of significant world ess champions.

I believe the decline in our manufacturing industries has been arrested. I know we could reverse the trend and instead of producing the same at lower and lower cost, share in the growth of world dechairmen of BP

will be a tough challenge. In our business, the motor

Sir John Harvey-Jones,

Long grey tail of low standards

T TAKES three years to be can throw it away and still turn around an economic make his target production deficit, seven for a technolous for the day. If he We have some very farward-looking unions, too,
who understand they are operating in a totally changed
world and with good companies who understand the
value of partnership that
bodes well for the future.

Move any farindex to respond
turn around an economic
turn focus on customer service. It was very difficult to do busi-

> Today loss-making industries are no longer a burden on the taxpayer. We have an improving infrastructure for competitiveness including lower telecoms, steel and en-

At their best, UK compa-nies are as good as any in the world. But there is a long grey tail of poorly performing small- and medium-sized companies. Turning these around

industry, the Japanese take the need to improve the per-formance of suppliers very seriously. Western companies have a more variable attitude. Doing better takes time. The City still pushes companies to look to the short term, though there is an increasing num-ber of fund managers who

take a long-term view. Improvements also need productivity give a company an unassatiable position. It is a question of philosophy.

an Keenar

Compared with Germany, France and Italy, we are in much better shape. The Europeans used to laugh at us. Now they are privatising industry, cutting taxes and try-

ing to introduce flexibility.

There are two big challenges facing the British government. The quality of secondary education is a very serious threat to industry's ability to remain competitive

in global markets.
The health service is the other major challenge. It must become more efficient, and learn how to do 50 per cent more for 50 per cent less cost. The key is to focus on the non-value-adding parts of the NHS — and that doesn't mean closing wards or losing

group chief executive, The Unipart Group

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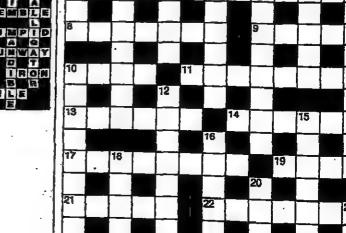
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Work smarter

everyone to be involved. If an former ICI chairman employee finds a faulty part, Quick Crossword No. 8315





- 1 Perimeter (13)
- 8 Alike (7) 9 Scrimp (5)
- 10 Heap (4) 11 Clergyman's address
- 13 in foreign parts (6)
- 14 Attitude -- taken by golfers? (8) 17 it's not a positive
- 19 Let it stand (4) 21 Perfect (5)
- Down 1 Lettuce — Greek isle (3)

24 Basically (13)

- 2 Walker or a climber (7) 3 Unsightly (4)
- Blacksmith perhaps not making good money (6) 5 Relations — may be paid (8)

22 Generous — political party

- 6 Artless (5) 7 Advantageous rather than just (9)

10 Bringer of lawsuit (9)

12 Spanish lace veil (8)

18 Lacking experience — on the golf course? (5)

15 Unaffected (7)

23 Non-professional

16 Slender (6)

20 Adjoin (4)

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Irdian Ition



g grey taild **standards**

The Guardian



Brian Keenan found out what it is to be a prisoner of ethnic conflicts in Beirut. But he did not need to go that far. He could have stayed in Belfast, the city of his birth. A place brave enough to escape its past?

Anostage of history

for him. I wasn't sure if he would still be there. I remember my father walking me hand in hand through the great sombre mill houses and grain stores that

mill houses and grain stores that marked out Belfast's dockland.

Not far from these were the bulky but bland commercial offices of the shippers and importers. Their bulk and weight seemed awesome to my seven-year-old mind. I was glad of my father's reassuring hand, but I was still intimidated about going to see the Indian chieffain. "You see, up there," said my father, pointing to a great stone face that looked out from one side of an arched gateway. I looked at the huge face becoming bigger as my father hoisted me on to his shoulders. Though I was now nine feet tall Though I was now nine feet tall the face still stared down at me.

The streets were thronged as I walked down Royal Avenue towards the area, where, as a child 40 years ago. I had stood with my

early Christmas shoppers were mingling with the lunch-time office workers and shop assistants bars and cafes. The and pre-Christmas cheer had not dispelled my anxiety. The city's peace was fragile and looked mockingly towards the season of

peace and goodwill.

But, I thought, that's the nature of this city, it thrives and survives on nervous energy. As if 26 years of the Troubles had become a routine of electric-shock therapy that the citizens berely noticed, yet which they couldn't live without, like some kind of hideous addic-

tion.

Had my old Indian been bull-dozed out of existence like so many other parts of inner-city Belfast? I noticed the Albert Clock, a 60-ft high replica of Big Ben, as it struck two o'clock. It looked like the whole structure was leaning to the right. I crossed the road to check. Sure enough, the famous old clock was doing just that. Time was leaning to the right, just as the various political group-ings in the city were taking up

Ethiopian's head surrounded by pomegranates. He had fat lips and a flat nose, and huge ears with earfrom. Beside him was an Indian, but not a Red Indian. Pineapples. grapes, and pumpkins surrounded him. He had black eyes and huge flowing whiskers and his lips were pursed in a kiss. There was an eastern sultan beside him crowned with a majestic turban. I had forgotten about all these faces and was suddenly remembering them as my eyes danced urgently towards my Indian chieftain. His headdress of feathers lay

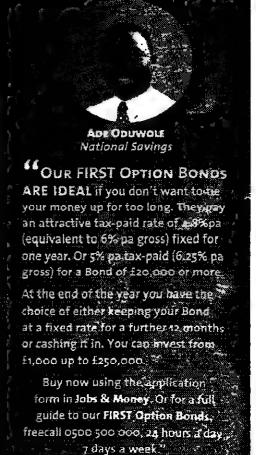
building with my old Red Indian, the giant reddish-brown facade of which was now sadly dilapidated

back into the stone as though a wind was blowing through them. He had a long nose and set mouth. but his eyes were huge and soft. I looked at them, half realising why

to B315

NATIONAL SAVINGS Investment Ideas HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

I'VE JUST HAD A SMALL WINDFALL and plan to treat my wife to the holiday of a lifetime in the spring of 198-our silver wedding anniversary. In the meantime I want to invest the money and get a really good return. Any ideas? C Burney



BEEN PAYING ATTENHON

is sending the Spice Girls a Christmas card?

sending the Spice Girls a Christmas card. Why?

2. idit Schectman isn't

and frank debate in the

Blair household". What

(b) Whether Britain should join the EMU

(c) Who is the hottest

4. Who was describ

5. Tony Blair told Des

6, "Whatever happen

(b) Donald Dewar (c) Michael Héseltine (d) Uday Husseln

(a) Ernest Saun

O'Connor he once tried to run away. What was his supposed destination?

we would have won." Who

refused to apologise for a dublous victory?

"Ittle grub (a) Med 5 (b) Med C (c) Maggie T

(d) Norma M

our's links with the

bout?

PHOTOMONTAGE BY JIM POWELL

Quiz answers

Mrs Thatcher, who was touched to be called the original Spice Girl.

called the original space can.

2. Because she claims the Spice Girls'
"Say You'll Be There" plagfarises her
Hebrew pop anthem "Come To Me".

3. (d) Who is the hottest Spice Girl. Tony
Blair also told the NME "Say You'll Be

recorded.
4. Norma M, described thus by John M in Good Housekeeping magazine. She denied having such a nickname.

ay on a plane leaving Newcastle sir-

port.

5. (c) Michael Hereitine, who rejected Opposition daims that the Tories had double-paired to win the Euro-fish vote.

7. Koff Annen, from Ghana.

8, 224.59. 9. (c) William Shakespeare, who has been

10. Sylvester Stallone said he was leaving Miami because of the crime rate; Jeremy

Irons threatened to leave the UK if his film

version of Loita was not released here.

11. The Rolling Stones (combined age
211), who announced a new eight-month tour of the US.

Prince Philip, who compared ours

13. The unemployment figures, which fell below 2 million for the tirst time for ab

years. 14. (b) Pamela Anderson, who has quit

Baywatch after five years playing Ris-guard C J Parker. 15. (c) Clearwater, Florida, where crowds

are gathering to see an image resembling the Virgin Mary on the side of an office

How you rate

10-14 Wise man (or woman)

0-4 Donkey 5-9 Shephard

ned to be anti-Semitic.

There" is a "great pop record". His thoughts on "Come To Me" are not

Them on them

The global view

FRANTIC parents are forking over anywhere from \$200 to \$1,250 to bring home "Tickle Me Elmo", the season's hottest toy. Elmo — successor to the Cabbage Patch Dolls and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles sensations of Turtles sensations Christmases past — has been virtually sold out since Thanksgiving. New York Post

IN Poland a guest is sup-posed to arrive, eat and drink as commanded. To this end the Polish language has invented a host of tests to facilitate imbibing large amounts of undi-luted alcohol. To make matters worse there is a

horrific ritual of getting on a first name basis called a Brunderszaft, in which two people change into octopuses for a few moments. Holding a vodka, each of the two entwine their arms, drink from each other's glasses and exchange kisses and rein-troduce themselves using first names.

والمستقدم والمستوال والمستوال والمستقدم والمست

THE Ministry of Communications is inviting individuals and companies to come up with a slogan for the Icelandic tourism industry. The offer has been advertised in the Icelandic media and made b foreign travel compar that sell trips to Iceland. Icoland Review

Us on us

The British view

Sport's worst-kept secret came officially out into the open as Wembley was named as the venue of Britain's new £130 million National Stadium. Why on earth should international matches of whatever sport be always located in London? If the yardstick of "national" had been truly applied to this venture, the new stadium would have been sited for the benefit of more of the nation than it will

The town hall that brought you the million missing bricks and 720 missing mowers and gar-

This week last year

December 19, 1995

YEAR ago, David Ashby took the Sunday ATimes to court to clear

his name after allegations of

himself face to face with the

The Tory MP for Leicester-

shire North West sued over a

report that he went to Goa

with a male lover. The paper retracted the part about Goa,

but maintained that he was gay, and claimed he shared a bed with a boyfriend in

peared, but because Ashby

vate tale of a dysfunctional

There were tales, told on

oath, of Mrs Silvana Ashby

family emerged and was

shouting obscenities so

robustly that she drove the

dogs to incontinence on the carpet, of Ashby's neglect of

he told her after his election

There was also the memo-

in 1983) and his impotence.

rable moment when he

ad to you,"

avidly reported.

his wife ("I am de

star defence witness — his wife — and lost the case.

homosexuality. He found

den tools, has managed another great disappear-ing trick. Lambeth Council sleuths now have to grap-ple with the curious case of the garages gone walka-bout. But not content with losing track of 3,424 of its 7,797 garages it has also lost 3,871 of its 4,814 carports. Streatham Mercury

Stray dogs in west Berkshire are to be implanted with a microchip containing information about their identities. Strays would have a chip inserted in them, which could be read by special scanners to reveal who owns any dog picked up on the streets. Newbury Nava



Unhappy families . . . David and Silvana

disgusted the liberals, as one of six Tory MPs on the select committee who voted against

a handgun ban. The six were

comprehensively reviled — famously, a tabloid printed

their phone numbers so that readers could pass on their

Speculation that Ashby's

Times indicated that it would be lenient with costs, while Ashby's three properties are

estimation of his debts. He has his original career, as a

ment on the case, but this

mercy from the court, nor the

and nor did I get it."

estimated £400,000 legal bill

would bankrupt him and

force a byelection was unfounded. The Sunday

Who is the new United . The l

for up

to £250. What is price? a. Who has b aned from the new

William of Orange 10. One film star fied the

US for London; another UK. Who ware they? 11. What's 211 years old

but refuses to die? 12. "This man is sensitivo, solfish i am-fisted." Which

13. 1,929,400 — "a great Christman present for Britain". What?

smean was Youv

14. "Her life is a mess She wants to put the past departing superstar? (b) Pamela And

sking to see the Madonna. Where is she? (a) Lourdes (b) Bethiehem (c) Clearwater (d) Empire, Leicester

criminal law barrister, to return to after the general

month wrote an epilogue to (c) Liz Hurley (d) Maggio Spice Great Parliamentary Scandals by Matthew Parris. "If I am asked whether (suing) 15. Thousands are was worth it the answer must he with hindsight a firm no"," he writes. "As a member of the two most hated professions (a lawyer and a politician) I could expect no

northern France. Ashby, surprisingly, confirmed the bed sharing, but said it was an economy. The story could have disap-

night for his appose, suggest ing this would bar homosexual activity. Their daughter Alexandra testified against her mother. By the time the jury returned its verdict on December 19, the family was the dominant talk of the Christmas party circuit. And after the verdict, husband and wife wept, an empty courtroom between them. Since then they have lived separate lives. "I have

times," Mrs Ashby has said. "but he never returns my calls." She claims to be "virtually penniless" and says she has taken a job in a jewellery shop.

MP who was economical with the bed

Ashby was applauded in the Commons after the verdict. He knew however that his position as MP for Leices tershire NW was in doubt, and sure enough, in March he was deselected. They are behaving rather like Smith-



Queen Mum and bash the queers," he said of the local party The constituency selected Robert Goodwill, a

majority.
Freed by his precarious position to rebel, Ashby voted in favour of a Housing Bill amendment to give gay council tenants the same rights as married couples. His vote led to an unexpected

husband's £42,000 office costs allowance (she was rarely seen at work in Westmin-ster), was terminated in July. She lodged a claim for unfair dismissal. Then, in August, David Ashby came once more to the public's

Having alienated the right wing of his party with his stance on civil liberties and homosexual equality, he

Brian Keenan ... caught up in

I strolled up through this "loyalist ghetto", I was intrigued by a sim-ple cames of life that confronted

Two old women wearing long heavy overcoats, like you see on women in the bread queues of Mosrow were linked arm-in-arm furtively inching their way across the busy thoroughfare. Behind them rose a huge mural with effigies of Kalashnikov-toting gun-men frozen in arrogant defiance, above them, like a screaming halo

printed in bold letters, were the words "Lest we Forget." The sign over a doorway next to the mural read "Shankill Open Learning Centre". Across the road, in the direction the two old women were walking, a man stood with a loudhailer, a sash across his chest emblazoned with "Jesus Saves", declaring sonorously, "All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God."

For some reason, all these frac-

The same day the Combined Loyalist Military Command were meeting in secret conclave to discuss the latest events and the possibility of calling off their

I was going to visit Jackie Red-path, who has been working in the Shankill community long before it stand that things are not the same. Protestant political thinking has are being discussed now that would never have been dreamt of housewives on this road learning Irish, for Christ's sake! People are

new analysis. There can be no going back . . . Sure there still are neanderthals and psychopaths out there, on both sides, who enjoy killing, but there is no room for

Answers, bottom left of this page

them anymore."
He handed me a leaflet. I thought it was a biblical tract but it was the programme of a conference that Jackie and many of the "new thinkers" from the Shankill had been involved in. He pointed to a quotation and said simply, "That's what you mean isn't it?"

I read: The challenge posed by reconciliation is to open up the social space that permits and encourages individuals and societies as a collective, to acknowledge the past, mourn the lost, validate the pain experienced, confess the wrongs and reach toward the next step of restoring the broken relationship. This is not to forgive and forget. This is not to remember, justify, and repeat. True reconciliation is to remember and change."

Jackie was right. Thinking in the Shankill ghetto was new.

Back in the town centre, I walked to the rear of Belfast City Hall. There is a building on the corner of Linehall Street which has a series of heads mounted on to the brickwork. It was originally a post office, and I noted the names of the faces that hung suspended above me. Years of weathering and too many layers of paint had obscured the detail of their features, though the names were clearly inscribed: Newton, Humboldt, Jacquard, Stevenson, Moore, Watt, Michelangelo, Columbus, Washington, Shakespeare, Schiller, and Homer. This was a strange gathering of heroes and I could imagine the type of 19th century liberal mind that selected them to be placed there. I wonder what each of them would

think of this city they had looked down on for more than a century. The obstacles of entrenched resistance from both Protestant and Catholic communities will require a Herculean effort to overcome, it will mean desperately struggling with a new imaginative reality which re-engages us with the unsolicited truth of our experience, and disengages us from

impotent received prejudices.
Just like my old Red Indian in the back streets of Belfast's Badlands, who let me see again with his great soft demanding eyes, declaring silently that where there is vision, there is hope.

A hostage of history

1 page 13 remembered this face rather that the others. As I walked away I could only think how imponderable, yet accepting and understanding the Chieftain appeared. He was all-knowing and all-embracing, as if he had seen it all before.

I returned to my hotel and read an article in the Irish Times in an article in the Irish Times in which the journalist was commenting on the "morality" of para-militarism. He referred to Bishop Cahal Daly quoting from Sartre's analysis of a moral fanatic: "He has all his decisions settled in advance by unarguable abstractions and all his moral judgments determined in advance by thexorable and timeless absolutes...It's a morality with out self-questioning or openness to evidence or experience ... But it is a morality of the dead, not of the living." Something of the sense of what Jean-Paul Sartre wrote and Bishop Daly quoted some 24 years ago seemed to be mortared into the Victorian edifices that bad surrounded my youth, and still remained like ghostly holograms. But however insightful were Sartre's words, and whatever resonance they might have today, I did not want to believe in Belfast being conceived or existing in "a morality of the dead". L after all grew up a Protestant in this town, with all the cultural baggage that is handed down with that innocuous label.

A few hours later I sat in the the Crown Bar — a renowned water-ing bole in the city. I was pondering whether changes in myself had blinkered my vision. Had anything changed here? Certainly Belfast, as a physical structure, was renewing itself, but was it building on the same old fauft lines? And had I really understood what I left behind? I have a lovehate relationship with this place. I know that underbelly of vibrant colourful life, the coarse savage humour, the passionate cama-raderie of the pub and the ugly bigotry and blindness. I come back to it like the prodigal son, with the

knowledge that I was snared up in that peculiar net of history and identify that has plagued this town. If history is seen to threaten our sense of ourselves, then we withdraw and the poison of self-doubt will fester and create mon-sters. And if it does not create monsters, it cripples and maims our sympathetic grasp of reality It was this understanding which

originally drove me away.

I was feeling allen in my own city. In the bar, the television behind me announced a newsflash. I spum on my bar-stool and walked quickly over the ornate floor to the screen and listened. The announcer urgently reported the bombing of the British Army Headquarters at Lisburn, some 11 away. I turned towards the long marble bar. To my amazement, not one head had turned to take in the news. A few years ago the same event would have caused an immediate silence in the bar and people would have crowded around the screen to listen. Today no one med the least interes

I looked around again. A few stools from me an elderly man, in his early sixtles and dressed like a banker, stared vacantly into the air before him. His eyes were glazed and watery. He could have en a drunk but I knew he wasn't The fact of his age and his unconcern struck me. He would have lived through the formative moments of our history and this latest event seemed of some importance. I had seen that unmoved expression and those great soft eyes earlier that day I had an instinctual feeling that my radion. Chieffing had followed me <u>Indian Chieftain had followed me</u> here. I went home alone, remind-ing myself that the politics of the latest atrocity is only another cul-de-sac in Belfast's frenetic his-

ome weeks later, I called to see a friend. Davy Hammond is even older than the man I had encountered in the ghostly moment in the pub, but as sage as any Indian spirit. He has lived and worked in the Protestant heartland of East Belfast for more than 30 years. I asked him what it was like living there now He answered: "It's not too bad." He went on to explain that the answer was only a kind of shorthand that protected him

tory. It was time to leave.



felt that by repeating the phrase "not too bad" often enough, it interposed a veil of selfishness between himself and the suffering Davy is a great admirer of the painter Goya and he recalled the image that Goya painted of two nen, waist deep, face to face, club bing each other to death. Then he quoted these lines from Ulster's most prominent Protestant poet, John Hewitt: This is our fate; eight hundred

Crazily tangled as the book of The dreams, distortion and the iands dinision

The midnight raiders and the prison cells Yet, like Lir's children banished to the waters . Our hearts still listen for the landward bells.

I sat back in Davy's small boxroom of a library and listened as he talked of the struggle between territorial plety and imperial power. Such an Idiom, he thought, might be remote from the new world of economic interest and urban renewal that seemed to be revealing itself everywhere in Belfast, but he insisted that it was not remote from the people who do the killing. It re-emerges in words like Planter and Gael, Protestant and Catholic, loyalist and republi-

unstable fault lines. I told him bout the old Albert Clock tilting sideways, and in his soft melodious voice he quoted Seamus Heaney:
"...Like the hare pads, that loop

across the grazing and trainel under the ripening corn the lines of sectorianism and affiliation ollow the boundaries of the It was like hearing my Red

NE of the most notable things to me each time I arrive back in Belfast is the luxurious ease with which people swear. I have also noticed how many Northerners, particularly in Protestant areas, speak with their voices hardly emerging from their throats. I too suffer from the same handicap, as if one's emotional and imaginative capability had got trapped or was hiding somewhere. But I sup-

Indian speak.

pose a passionate people is often given to the confederacy of whispers or the roar of deflance. I went walking on the Shankill Road, listening and looking. I had worked here many years ago and much of the area had been swallowed up in redevelopment and the construction of an arterial shorthand that protected him and Catholic, toyanist and republified whole twisted can.

I interrupted Davy to ask him confused emotions. Sometimes he about my own notions of a city confused emotions. Sometimes he about my own notions of a city constitution of an arterial ring road. But communities like the Shankill don't simply disappear, they persist against all odds.

"There are things being discussed that the press never hear about my own notions of a city pear, they persist against all odds."

for some reason, an these trac-tured images seemed to echo my own thinking about the Belfast I knew. The language of the learn-ing centre, the primitive evangelism of the street preacher, the idiomatic words on the mural and finally the unheard words of the old women — the city's fragmented nature, the non-connectedness of its ideas.

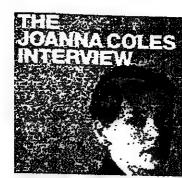
ceasefire.

became internationally famous. Jackie was also anxious, but like Davy, hopeful. He knew the Shankill and the Protestant mindset better than anyone I knew, and spoke with passion: "Whatever happens, Brian, you have to undermade a great leap forward. Things before. There are Protestant thinking now. The days of reaction are gone.
There are things being dis-

صكرا من الدعل

An author at four, the future of university student Ruth Davies seven years on is bright, to put it mildly

Eleven into 147 will go



a second?" Ruth Davies demands. and before I can sit down, she is telling me anyway: "It's 9,192,631,717 cycles of radiation, um, corresponding to the transi-tion between the two hyperfine

levels of the ground state of the caesium 133 atom!" "I didn't know there was a definition of a second," remarks her older sister Katle from the sofa, where she is absently nursing her four-week-old baby.

Well, there's a definition almost everything, isn't there? says Ruth's mother.

Uh-oh. I haven't even taken m coat off yet, what have I stumbled into, I think bleakly, wondering how best to approach an 11-year-old girl bursting with an IQ of 147. From under her jagged fringe she gives a short, shy smile.
Ruth Davies smiled properly

the day after she was born. Seven months later she started talking. " 'More choc,' those were her first words," her mother giggles. Ruth started word-processing aged two. At the age of four she wrote a book called My Little Duck. On the back she wrote Other Titles By This Author Include ... The sequel was called And Susie Wanted This. "I thought that was a strange title," says Mrs Davies. "Well, call books things like that,

don't they," says Ruth, tidy in her school uniform of grey jumper, tronsers and bright blue tie. We are sitting in the family home on New Road in Belper, Derbyshire, which seems pretty much like any other family home. There's a crowded dresser, fireplace, piano, weary sofa, a couple of armchairs and a sprinkling of felt pens. Only two things strike me as unusual, there's no television, and on the table lie several plastic foetuses — an education kit from the Society for the Pro-

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- 22

tection of the Unborn Child, nor-mally available only in schools. We'll come back to SPUC in a minute, but for now, here we all are: Ruth. Ruth's mother Mrs Davies, Ruth's older sister Katie and her son Isaac, Ruth's nephew. Intermittently we are noisily joined by Peter and Mary, Ruth's younger siblings, and Paul, Katie's first son (now five and the same age as Mary, his aunt) whom Katie had when she was 16 and who is still living at home. (She went back to start her A levels when he was 12 weeks old.)

There are three more sisters, Clare, Anna and Sarah, who have all left home, and another sister, Jane, died of brain damage when she was three. Dad, still at work, teaches maths and computing.

I have come because I am curious to know what it's like to discover a very clever child in the family. A child so clever that she was genuinely absorbed by books from the age of five months; a child so clever she attends special classes at Warwick University on Saturdays, and is taking an O level in psychology by correspondence.

The idea came from the Gifted Child Society who, understanding Ruth was frustrated at primary school, recommended Mrs Davies give the local college a ring and suggest her daughter take some extra-curricular courses.

The college said fine, then I told them she was 10 and they said 'No thank you'. They said adult students would resent a 10 year-

old sitting next to them!"
"I wouldn't have minded," Ruth
pipes up, "though I wouldn't like
to spend all my time with adults, I like friends of my own age." When did Mrs Davies realise Ruth was different from the rest

of her brood? "Sarah, my oldest daughter, did a dissertation on gifted children, and Ruth typed a lot of it up on the word processor - because she's been very good on it since she was



Tidy mind, shame about the floor . . . Ruth Davies in reading mode. On the back cover of her first stint as an author, she wrote Other Titles By This Author Include . . .

two — and she recognised herself. I'd been ignoring it in a way, I thought it was simpler if they were all the same. Which reminds me I bought you a textbook today Ruth, on psychology."
"Oh great," says Ruth, return-ing from the kitchen with an

apple crammed in her smile. Does she have a sense of being clever?
"I know I'm more intelligent than half the people in my class." "Gran-maa," shouts Paul bouncing in with Mary, "Gran-maa, can I have a sandwich?"

At the age of nine, Ruth insisted on learning algebra, but her teachers declined. The Derbyshire Education Authority does not allow pupils to be "accelerated" beyond their age-group.

After psychological tests showed she had the understand-ing of an adult, Ruth was finally accepted by the local Catholic comprehensive in September — the only school prepared to take her a year early.

her a year early.

"I don't like to criticise teachers," says Mrs Davies, "there are lots of them in our family — but at her last school, one said to me 'Ruth's working very hard and she's making us work very hard. too! We don't have anything to offer her'. " Ruth stares out of the window. "She's cleverer than

me!" says her mum. Her daughter remains silent. Indeed, for much of the time, she looks as if she's in her own world,

a thesis on gifted children, and Ruth typed it up on the wordprocessor

'Sarah did

– she's been very good on it since she was two'

surfacing only to answer ques-tions politely. She's unprecocious but confident enough to rebuff my attempts at encouraging smiles with the odd, suspicious stare. I later discover a local journalist once quoted her in an interview without even talking to her.

without even talking to her.

What else does she do when she's not studying? "I play the trumpet and piano," she says, clambering on to the piano stool, when I ask her to demonstrate. Mrs Davies suggests Peer Gynt. Katie prefers Dangerous Journey, which Buth pulls off with a cert which Ruth pulls off with a cer

tain trundling style.
"I like the Warwick classes, because the teacher takes notice of what you say," she says abruptly. In the summer, the family camped in Yorkshire so Ruth could attend a summer school aimed at ad-vanced children. "We did a lot of

work," she grins, perking up as she talks about work. "The tutors said they were doing a week and a half's work each day," interrupts Mrs Davies.
"They told me Ruth is seriously underachieving because she's not regularly asked to do these kind of things. The guy who was running the course said she's quite eccentric."

"What does eccentric mean." "Nuts!" her mother giggles. What about her other hobbies? "I write poetry. I'll go and see if I

can find some," and she scram-

out nuance, at the dinner. But if

you believe, as I do, that taxation

access to scarce resources (by

is a legitimate means of enlarging

funding hospitals, schools, public

transport, etc) you will find noth-ing but a dismally impoverished self-interest in the Republican

porters over here too. What we might call the "delegitimising" of

stance. Of course, it has its sup-

bles off her knees, returning almost immediately with a sheaf of papers.

was an altar girl!" Ruth: "I'm a member of three bands, a Guide, a member of the Society for the Pro-This is the first poem:

Behind a locked and heavy door, lies so much information, but I don't know where adults keep the It seems they want to hold me

back in my education, are they scared of what I just might see? For ten long years I asked and I was always told to wait. You are too young, so just slow down they I yearn to learn, please teach

me now, and don't procrastinate. Unlock that door and help me on

Does she feel different to other kids? "Well, how many other girls wear trousers and don't care what their hair looks like," Katie butts

in from the sofa. "Pandora wears trousers," counters Ruth crossly.
"Mum-my the bread's out," Mary shouts from the kitcher Does she get picked on as a

swot? "Not really." "She was the first altar girl at our church," her mother declares. "Our Lady of Perpetual Suffer-ing..." murmurs Ruth. Mrs Davies: "When the Pope

finally said girls could go on the altar. Ruth wrote a letter to the priest saying 'I want to be an altar girl' and she stood by the door waiting for him to pass and said 'Well ...?' And the next week she

tection of the Unborn Child and an aviation studies group which studies how areoplanes fly. And I

ead, a lot, currently Lord Of The Mrs Davies: "She got told off for reading Of Mice And Men. They told her it was too old for her."

Ruth: "But I was really enjoying it. It was so full of emotion." Mrs Davies: "They used to use her at school as another teacher

there was a queue at her desk of children. She'd be up at midnight saying What can I do? Ruth: "I'm going to bin my

Does she have a boyfriend? "No." Does she know yet what she'd

like to do when she's older? "I want to study the psychology of the unborn child." Why? "Because I went to a SPUC conference on it. You know they've found out babies can hear tunes, they're going to see if they can distinguish different tunes."

The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child features strongly in the Davies family. Katie made the local paper's front page when she was ejected forc-ibly from the fresher's fair at Derby University, after trying to set up a SPUC stand.

Confusingly, Katie's son Paul is now in the same class as his Aunt

Mary. Mrs Davies (excitedly):

"Both of them were completely unplanned, but it worked out really well."

Katie: "We both got told off by doctors. I was too young, Mum was too old. Mrs Davies: "They talk down to

Katie: "You get so patronised." Mrs Davies (furious): "You go in and say you're pregnant and they offer you an abortion!" Katie (splenetic): "They start getting the green forms out of the

Mrs Davies: "They tell you you'll be better soon, it's auful."

Katie: "Dreadful." Mrs Davies (anger subsiding):
"They're like, 'Did you plan this child? No? Why have it then?' "
Katie: (Sadly)"They always

think you want an abortion."
From the dresser, Mrs Davies pulls out some old projects which Ruth has written about babies and then points to a series of 25 cards hung on a string above the fire. It's an advent calendar, made from last year's Christmas cards which Ruth has cut up and embellished with poems. Each night the family lights a candle and opens one of the cards to read the poem. What about music, I ask finally. Cranberries." And what about a television, would she like one? "No. There's always lots of con-



Left is good but it's a lot more fun on the right

HAVE just returned from New York, where I was a guest at a Republican fund-raising dinner. It was \$500 a plate and most of the people there were congratulating themselves on their party's triumphs. Three men were singled out for special praise, described as "honorees" and given an award, to much applause. To explain how I came to be at

this bash is a story in itself, but let's just say I was there as a spectator rather than a celebrant. It seems that the Republicans are doing well in the State of New York, and (so they say) they are also doing well for New York State. Marginal tax rates are down and criminal conviction rates are up. If you listened uncritically to the speeches that night, you'd think that this is all that politics is

about. "Liberal" continues to be a term of abuse. As one supporter pa-tiently explained to me, a liberal is simply a person who says "what's mine is mine and what's yours is preached, interminably and with-

mine". Taxation is just a fraud. The government steals money from the thrifty and then gives it to the indigent, thereby demoralis-ing them. Liberals are thus incompetent crooks; they first take our money and then they misspend it. They demotivate both the taxpayer and the ultimate recipient of the taxed money. If we can't keep the money we earn, why work? If we can get money without working, then again, why work?

And as, during the course of the evening, this argument is repeated (developed it isn't), the invisible connection between the crime rate and the tax rate becomes apparent. Tax rates are crime rates — records of thefts committed by the IRS against the vulnerably affluent. It's not that bringing the tax rate and the crime rate down are merely related activities; in some profound way, for these people, it's the same activity. This was the doctrine being

taxation as an instrument of social policy is one of the legacies of the Thatcher ministries. Indeed, it is a legacy that both the Major Government and the Blair Opposition have inherited. Am I alone in finding slightly depressing the enthusiasm with which the Labour Party has post-tively embraced this legacy? What

has happened to the principle of the redistribution of wealth? Still, listening to these alienating and unsympathetic dinner speeches made me nonder why one takes pleasure in, and can learn from, so much of the writing and teaching of those on the right. It was a slightly guilty thought, and it was connected with my long beld suspicion that, if confronted with the straight choice of a desert island subscription to either the

There is still something of the Roundheads versus Cavaliers about the New Statesman and the Spectator

Spectator or the New Statesman, I might be inclined to choose the

This isn't a criticism of the new editor of the Statesman; in the few weeks he's been running the magazine he has hugely improved it. The point is, rather, that however good the Statesman becomes, the

Spectator will continue to offer special, irreplaceable, pleasures. It was also prompted by reading. on the plane over to New York, Eugene Genovese's book The Southern Tradition, which is a critical celebration of the conservatism of the American South. Genovese, a native New Yorker writing out of the marxist left, believes that southern conservatives have much to teach the left.

especially regarding "the irra-

tionalities of its radical

egalitarianism"

I think that the intellectual appeal of the right has to do with its challenge to the very premises of your own politics, and its many practical deficiencies. Confront writers who maintain, for example, that social justice is a mirage, or that taxation is state-senctioned theft, and you take the mea sure of your own convictions.

They compel you not just to think, but to think against yourself. It's a bracing experience, and a welcome relief from debates

within the left, where everything that matters — and thus every-thing that is most questionable

versations here."

is simply taken for granted. And there is also the pleasure offered by a magazine such as the Spectator of a temporary abser teeism from the solemnities of the left. The right is less guilty about its frivolity than the left, for whom it is a distraction from the struggle. There is still something of the contrast between Roundheads and Cavaliers about the New Statesman and the Spectator. (The French critic Roland Barthes, taking issue with similar sentiments, said that anyone who thought that people on the left were incapable of enjoying the inconsequential obviously didn't

know anything about Brecht and his cigars. To which you feel like responding: if that's the best counter-example he can come up with, case proved).

So, a seasonal thought: good will to all men, even Republicans.

Jeremy Hardy is on holiday



Great sentiments. shame about the song

HE DUKE of Edinburgh has long been our national Basil Fawlty, an unnerving blend of the sinister and the comic. (Or has he answered the week's great medical conundrum, by proving that the heart of a pig can heat in the breast of a man? No wonder the royal family is dysfunctional. Imagine being raised by a man who equates gun laws with banning cricket bats.

It has a wonderful Fawityesque logic. Like Basil's great "Krakstoa exploding, herds of wildebeeste sweeping majestically" speech, one can imagine him going on and on: "I mean, you might as well ban usages just because someone got food poisoning. You could strangle someone with a curtain cord, couldn't you, are you going to ban curtains? Curtains? Eh? Are you going to han curtains, then?"
This in a week when the "Dun-

blane children" got to number one in the charts with Knocking On Heaven's Door. I agree with their sentiments — I doubt if it will save a single life, but it would be wona single life, but it would be won-derful to have a gun-free country, and this is the only way to start— and I hope they raise lots of money. I also feel for the parents, who will spend the rest of their lives suffering the ultimate, unimagineable horror of knowing that their children spent their last few moments on earth in misery and terror.

But am I alone in thinking the record is a stumer? For a start, it's not the children at all, except in the chorus; instead it's some whiney local bloke, singing horrible whiney lyrics, proving that to be Bob Dylan it's not enough to be whiney - you need quite a lot of talent, too.

A CHANCE to meet up with Dillie Keane at dinner. (Her cabaret troupe, Fascinating Aida, opens at the Vaudeville in London next month. They are wonderful Book now.) Dillie is a sharp observer of now.) Dillie is a sharp observer of the whole showbiz scene — they don't call each other invoic, but darling — and is a particular ex-pert on the phrases you use when you've been to see a dear friend in some minor role at Pitlochry or Penzance, and have to find a way of sounding complimentary with-out actually lying. "You were so hrave" is a good one, So is "You out actually lying. "You were so brave!" is a good one. So is: "You must have found it such a challenge." "Well!" said in an emphatic voice could mean either: "Such hrilliance leaves me speechless," or alternatively "My God, what a disaster."

"That producer ought to be shot" is a good way of damning a play without actually blaming your friend. "To be quite honest, you were not in the company of equals," is majestically ambigu-

The old union leader used to say: It's carrying democracy too far if you don't know the vote in advance

ous. My favourite, quite unanswer-able, is: "I fhought you made some absolutely fascinating choices."

ANNIS Atkins, the vicar's wife who thinks there shouldn't be gay services in churches, has made the top six of the Today personality of the year poll — a pretty diblous honour these days. One of the people who nominated her said she was "compassionate". Mrs Attick kins is now the agony aunt in the Daily Telegraph where, so far as I

compassionate nature by telling people, in effect: "I know it's rough luck, but God says you can't."

Her compassion, I gather, runs to believing that homosexuals shouldn't actually be locked up, but that they should stop whatever it is they are doing. What is so compassionate about telling a large proportion of the population that through an accident of birth, they should not be permitted to have physical relationships, I have no idea. No doubt if only half the bigots in the country have phoned

ANOTHER great mystery in John Major's life. Earlier this week he said in an interview that his pe name for his wife Norms was "Lit-tle Grub". On Wednesday she denied any knowledge of the term. We don't have nicknames for each other," she said. "Whai

I turn for enlightenment to Pai rick Wright, whose hilarious car toon hiography of the Prime Minister is just out (Andre Deutsch, 25.99). He has Major's mother calling him all sorts of silly animal names, "my little wood wasp", "my tiny elephant seal" etc. Mr Wright tells me that this was pure

does recall reading a quote from Major in the course of his researches in which he clearly stated years ago that his nickname for Norma was "Grub", without the "little". This still leaves the central puzzle. How is it possible for a man to have a pet name for his wife, a name to which he repeatedly calls attention, yet of which she is entirely unawars?

YOU can't excuse the Tory whips cheating this week, but you can easily understand it. By its nature, politics attracts a lot of control freaks, people who know what's best for the rest of us and are determined we should get it. The most controlling become whips, and there is nothing which causes more anguish in a whip than not knowing the result of a close vote. They simply cannot bear it, and will do almost anything to prevent it gives as me have seen if it's it, even, as we have seen, if it's

completely crooked. completely crooked.

During the last Labour Government (which, as everyone seems to forget, had fallen to a minority of 16 when it finally collapsed) Eric Varley used to quote the old miners' union leader from his home town: "It's carrying democracy too far if you don't know the vote in

you get value for your money, you

the shops, not less.

As my Dad used to say, the poor

And if I am never satisfied with

the things I've bought and keep wanting to buy more, so am I never satisfied with the number

What have you got against people buying things to make the room look nice? Are you saying that objects like vases and flowers

and table-lamps and russ and pic-tures — in other words all that

we decorate or furnish them is, in a limited way, an expression of our creative selves. It sounds like

you're saying that a hammer to knock in the nail for the picture

hock is useful but the picture isn't.

MANY people buy crap because it is the very act of buying that is the

important part of the transaction.

They may even buy well-made things but buying is the high. How can you deny that much shopping has become a mass.

wasterul, aimless activity. That it

uses up precious resources and makes little contribution other

than keeping many people in

Go to Knightsbridge and Covent

Garden and you'll see a lot of

wealthy people buying rubbish. It is simplistic of you to suggest that

people only buy crap because they

Buying books and CDs as a

seans of making a room look nice

seems a bit phoney. I certainly am not against the visual arts. But

vacuous accumulation is what

I come back to my original

point. Shopping as an end in itself cannot go on. It destroys minds, economies and the environment.

The crisis is coming whether you

Do have a lovely Christmas.

annot afford the good stuff.

cheeses me off. Get a life.

Regards, Linda

chean labour.

Dear Linda,

girly stuff - don't have a use?

ELESTRATION: STEVE CAPLIN

MALLWEED could scarcely believe what he saw on his TV screen on Thursday night. A shadow cabinet minister stood in the street and denounced a senior member of the Royal Family as an "elderly aristocrat whose views were of no real consewhose views are the description of the second juvenite lead from Tony Blair's gyromancy department, clad in opera cloak and felt hat, rush from an alley and clamp a large chloroformed pad over the hapless spokesman's impertinent lips. Failing that, there would clearly be word put about in time for the midnight news to provide, as these chaps like to say, some ontext. George Robertson a Dun-blane resident himself...own children attended the school... understandably overwrought... none will regret more than he a somewhat ill-worded outburst . . . Not even that. The skies

Not even that. The skies remained yesterday morning much where they were the previous night. The number 259 bus ran, as ever, its lonely, sinuous course from Holborn to Ponder's End. No BBC instant telephone poll apneed to look at lots or usings com-spend your money wisely — hence more time mooching round ed to look at lots of things and can't afford to buy cheap goods. As for your argument about shop-abolics — well, I and most other people drink (occasionally to excess) but we are not alcoholics. peared showing 90 per cent of respondents calling for Robertson's head. Remarkable. And prompting this thought: could the uniform pusillanimity with which every recent Labour leader has addressed the issue of monarchy have been a shade overdone?

NOTHER historic breakthrough: a chart in yesterday's Guardian showed that three Government documents leaked to the press in the past two years emanated from the Department of Tramsport. That's all the more remarkable when the very existence of this department has been concealed from the press for To do so is to argue against all visual art. If an object looks nice, pleases the eye, then of course it has a use. Our surroundings are tarribly important to us and how almost half a century.

Stephe

Like so many sentimental no-tions which Thatcher tried to get rid of, this institution dates from the 1950s, when trams began to be swept off the roads of the nation. After years of vallant service across the points, was it right, some tearful junior minister is said to have asked, to banish them to the scrap-heap? Why not set aside some quiet corner of Britain to allow them to spend their years in happy retirement, to frolic in the sun like carthorses at the end

of their service, or ponies freed from the pits? So a sunny spot was found a few miles from Rutland Water, where even today a few surviving speci-mens — red-coated roadcars from Leeds, orange and greens from Glasgow — continue to disport themselves among the more junior entrants from the only

trammed borough left, Blackpool One might have thought that long before now, some chancellor on the look-out for cuts would have taken the axe to this enterprise. But happily Kenneth Clarks is a fan and frequently breaks his journey down the Al to watch these old valiants at play. He even has dreams, it is said, of importing old street cars from Brussels and Amsterdam to give the place a Eurodimension. But don't say I told you, or someone like Michael Portillo

SEK the Government wants to stop us calling Major's stance on Europe a "wait and see" pol-icy and to call it instead "Negotiate and Then Decide". This will never catch on. "Wait and see" has a homely feel which people innomely recognise, and know from stantly recognise, and know from their own experience often makes sense. It used to be commonplace perhaps it still is — for parents

will probably put a stop to it.

stered by children about what was coming to finish the meal, to reply: "It's wait and see pudding." This was usually respected. A response, on the other hand, of "It's Negotiate and Then Decide pud-ding" would have run the risk of derision and bun-throwing.

ISCONCERTING to read in a newspaper interview that the elaborately-coffed leader of the UK Independence Party, Dr Alan Sked, has been asked to write the biographies of Thatcher, Howe, Kinnock and others for the Oxford Companion to British History. Thatch may have less to worry about, but if I were the Europhile Howe I would not be over the moon.

not be over the moon.
Sked (what a curious name! an anagram of desk, as you probably noticed) is co-author with Chris Cook of the well-respected Penguin history of Post-War Britain ("to be consulted with confidence"—R Hattersley) the fourth edition of which I have in my hand as I write which I have in my hand as I write (except that I've just put it down to type this sentence). This contains on page 586 a passage which strongly suggests that everous fall not, I suspect, LP Cook) has got slightly carried way by boiling

emotion. The book's final judgment on the Thatcher years is that she was a weak prime minister who was not in control of her Cabinet. Hence, it's argued, her inability to sack Heseltine before he resigned or get rid of naughty Mark-stalking Nigel, and her inability to stop Hurd and Major railroading her into the ERM. Why didn't she make Nicholas Ridley chancellor, as Alan Walters told her to? etc. Howe's resignation is treated with some disdain; he had recently been giving lectures "explaining that he no longer knew what national sover-

MALLWEED'S thought for the week, no 271 (part of an occasional series starting with no 271). "Philosophy is the bottom shelf of theology." (Assistant in Exeter bookshop giving

eignty meant". Ominous.

The long good buys



It's time to polish off the Christmas shopping. Oh no! We're being turned into shopaholics, says Big Issue editor John Bird. But I adore it, replies Linda Grant, author of a novel on shopping and politics

Dear Linda,

I HATE shopping. Not shopping for essentials, those things that you need. But that other land of shopping. That shopping as cul-tural activity. That retail therapy, as it is often called. It seems to me that shopping as an end in itself is bad for your mental health.

I agree with Socrates. Having been shown over the marketplace, he was saked what he thought of all the things on sale. 'It's surpristhings there were that I had no use for." Or words to that effect. Shopping as an end in itself is

about chasing an elusive sense of satisfaction. That ultimate piece of clothing. That ultimate plece of household junk. Never satisfied, the appetite remains but the cupboard fills up. In some ways we seem to be repeating the orians with their desperate need to fill up their lives with crap. Stuffed birds, stuffed wardrobes and stuffed up people. And always running away from the ugliness of

4 hrs to the USA.

ever onward to the detriment of their sense of well-being and to the detriment of their pocket. Personal inadequacies are overcome by the next purchase, not unlike a drug user. It is a sad statement about modern life that shopping is less and less about want, and more and more about getting a

emporary buzz. The damage that is being done to people's minds goes on apace. We are encouraged to feel empty unless we are participating. Discretification when theretical of the control Diction runs through all ger erations as younger and younger people get hooked on aimless

hidden behind the compulsive shopper. Think of all the energy that goes into whetting the shop-pers' appetite. The production of products from scarce resources. the waste of electricity, packaging and a whole plethora of activities that go into keeping the appetite supplied.

I can't see how the modern world can survive its finite resources being wasted so that Retail therapy drives people people can shop aimlessly. Per-



spe there may come a time when the luxury of purchasing crap may be a thing of the past. Yours,

Dear John.

WELL, it's your own fault if you find yourself buying crap — obvi-ously you can't spend enough of that all-important time wandering round the shops looking at what they we got and ensuring you don't make a wrong choice.

I adore shopping, I find it both relaxing and pleasurable. And it is therapeutic. It cured my lower back problems one day because it made me stop thinking about my-self and focus outwards.

My mother, who suffers from senile dementia, is at her most coherent and whole a personality when I take her from the nursing home out to town and she can interact with the world at the interact with the world at the shops. She can't follow the plot of a film and, yes, I know I could take her to a park but she's never liked

Like anything else, shopping can be damaging if taken to excess but most people are not shop-aholics. It is outrageously insulting of you to assume that people who shop are "running away from the unliness of that little lines." the ugliness of their little lives".

I spent four hours Christmas shopping on Saturday, then came home and spent the afternoon reading Gita Sereny's book on Althe same spree. Like most men, I

expect you do not characterise shopping for books or records or indeed copies of the Big Issue as shopping at all. Men have defined shopping as the purchase of those goods that they themselves are not interested in, like clothes and things to do with the home, which you want us to believe are shal-low, trivial and materialistic.

Yet it is men who will spend. large sums on a season ticket to a football club, which will support the grossly inflated wages of the players. What is sport for? What's the point of it? Yet men treat it as a religion, while shopping is denifemale sobere.

To me, part of the joy of it is looking at what people have made, whether it is a table or a dress. All these things are the products of someone's brain and imagination. You talk of a whole plethora of activities that keep the appetite supplied. If these activities were to end, what do you think the people carrying them out would do to earn a living? Sell the Big

Dear Linda,

BUT THE crap is there to buy and people buy it. High Streets are full of crap shops. The fact that you don't buy it and I don't buy it is beside the point.

I was pleased to read that you back cleared up by you not think-ing about it; that all you needed

was a distraction and shopping suitably supplied you with that. Obviously, as a distraction shop-

I was glad to see that you have not capitulated to mindless shopping and that you have been intallectually stimulated by at least one of your purchases. But this still does not address the problem of those who are shopsholics and who need to shop or feel incom-plets. Nor does it address the

picts. Nor does it address the problem of the increasing emphasis on shopping almost as a statement of purpose in life.

I define shopping as I did in my letter. Shopping for things that have a use. And shopping as aimply an aimless pursuit. Books and records are about use, not about putting on shelves to make the

I know many men hate shoo-I know many men have snop-ping and many women love shop-ping. It would suggest to me that shopping as an end in itself is obviously often the preserve of women. It does not have to be justified as a legitimate famale. pursuit simply because it is car-ried out by women.

As for football, you are talking to the wrong bloke. Now if it was

boxing, that would be different.

Dear John,

BOXING! There's an activity conducive to mental health. People buy crap because they can't afford buy good shift. To make sure

Dear John,

like it or not.

FVE got a life, thanks, full of interested and varied activities: reading seeing films, writing, travelling and, yes, shopping. You keep saying that buying is the high but where's the evidence? It's

just a gut feeling on your part.

I come back to my point about this being about different male and female cultures. Men think that if they want something they can go out, buy it in 10 minutes and come home again. It's the old hunter/gatherer distinction.

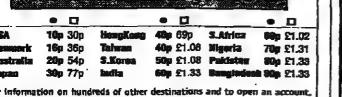
Men said, right, I'm off to spear woolly mammoth, it's nasty, ngerous work but someone has to do it. I'll be back as quick as I

Women go out, wander about, see some wheat here, a pebble there and see-shell on the shore and think, hmm. Put those together and they'll brighten up that rather dark corner of the

Anyway, I hope you get some Christmas presents you like. Want to make a date to go to Selfridge's for the sales? Seasons greetings,

Linda Grant's novel, The Cast Iran Shore, was published in June

Doonesbury



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Lovers in for the kill or the thrill?

Why do some women find convicted murderers adorable? Luke Harding and Stephen Bates report on romances like that of Lil Simon, who has travelled to America to marry killer Nick Campas

amall-town America a rather unusual wedding will take middle-aged hair-from Bournemouth and a native American from the Yuki

Watched by her four children, Lil Simon will go through a traditional Indian marriage caremony.
As guests sip punch and music plays softly, she will lie down on the floor with her groom, Nick Campas, aka Broken Arrow. They will be wrapped in a marriage blanket as a tribal chief chants and throws herbs at them. There will be brief congratulations and a

But the conventional pleasures of a wedding night will have to be postponed — 10 years, to be pre-cise. Worders from Washington State Reformatory will march the groom away from the visiting room back to his cell, where he'll be banged up.

Broken Arrow is a convicted killer who stabbed his victim with a steak knife. Consequently, he and his bride have a long wait ahead of them: conjugal visits are forbidden by prison regulations and his earliest release date is May 3, 2006.

This romance is one unlikely consequence of the dark events of May 15, 1988, when Nick Campas was invited back to the house of a 31-year-old single mother, Linda Thomas, for a drinking session. In the early hours of the morning he murdered ber. For Taroma police department, his letters became," Lil said. "We

it was an unremarkable homicide. Detective John Pike, who investigated the murder eight years ago, struggles to recall even the berest details. There are certain mur-

On the night of the murder, Broken Arrow had met Linda Thomas in a downtown tavern, where they shot a few games of pool. Sitting in her lounge later, they drank sev-CDs at full volume.

At sam he got up to leave. But then he took a steak knife from the kitchen and stabbed his victim repeatedly in the head and chest. Broken Arrow, aged 39, was ar-rested shortly afterwards in the dead woman's sports car, trying to sell her video recorder.

During his trial he showed no remorse and was sentenced to 40 years, lowered on appeal. He is still likely to serve 16 years.

But the killing was to have a curious epilogue. Last April, as he sat in his cell, he received a letter from Lil, whose first marriage lasted nine years and who claims to have had another nine-year relationship with a millionaire. She had answered a newspaper advertisement seeking pen-pals for prisoners in the UK and abroad. Almost instantly, they embarked on a giddy epistolatory

courtship, exchanging hundreds of passionate love notes and tapes, as well as photographs. "We just seemed to click and the more he wrote, the more intimate



صكنا من الاعل

saying: 'If you're trying to tell me that you've fallen in love with me. all I can say is that I lost my heart you weeks ago.' " Lil flew to Seattle to get to know

Broken Arrow better. On her third visit, he proposed. She ac-cepted instantly, after spending just 63 hours in his company.

"When he asked me to marry him I was thrilled — I've never felt this way about anyone before, she said. Barlier this month, Lil shut the

front door of her Bournemouth semi for the last time. With her suiteases and children — Scott, aged 17, 15-year-old twins Vicky and Dee, and Guy, aged five, she set off to start a new life. Campas has signed his house in Tacoma over to Lil and his mother has given her her own engagement and wedding rings.

naive, romantic fantasist deserving pity rather than scorp. But she admitting she writes to Dutroux

is a regulated penal system — women fall in love with dangerous, often crazy men, imprisoned for horriffe crimes.

Most astonishing is the case of Marc Dutroux, the Belgian electriclan currently under investigation for gruesome paedophile murders, who has acquired an unlikely fan-club of middle-aged women.

Each week, Dutroux gets dozens of largely friendly letters in the maximum security jail at Arlon, near the Luxembourg border. Admirers have sent him money to buy a television set and proposed teddy bear for his 40th birthday, which he celebrated recently.

What seems to motivate many of his female fans is not sexual desire, but maternal love. One, Anne, a mother with children Were she an isolated example, after he complained he was cold at Lil Simon could be dismissed as a night. Last month, she gave an in-

who allegedly allowed two eightyear-old girls, imprisoned in a makeshift dungson in his home, to

starve to death? "Because I am human and he has got enough people disparaging him. He is not the first and he won't be the last paedophile."

Psychologists give several different explanations for this phe-nomenon, not all satisfactory. Undoubtedly, evil men have always had an appeal, a compelling fatal magnetism, for some women. In the case of Jan Felker, a Surrey hanker whose husband was executed last month after serving 14 years on death row, long-term friendship turned into romance only after many years of

Jan's relationship differed from others involving such inmates because there was compelling evidence to suggest her husband Wayne, jailed for raping and killing a waitress in 1981, was innocent

She started writing in November 1991, rising at 5am every day and replying to his "very humor pletely anti-social, living on the in which to repent.





The course of true love . . . engaged couple Nick Campas and Lil Simon, top; Marc Dutroux, object of much motherly affection above; and happily-married Barry and Mary Rutter, left

ous" letters. Only with the execu-tion of Briton Nick Ingram in April 1995, which brought home how close her correspondent was to death, did she become romantically involved. After one execution date had come and gone, the

in Georgia last May. Since her husband's death, Jan has been answering letters of condolence at her home in Weybridge. many from other inmates on death row. How did her relationship with Wayne differ from her earlier

falled marriage?

She responds with painful honesty. "He made me feel extremely esty. "He made me reel extremely special. He put me on a pedestal, he idolised me," she says. "It was hard not to feel special and I never had to fight for that position. He would have been a very hard act to follow. He was exceptional—humorous, witty and intelligent."

Most women who fall in love

Most women who fall in love with convicted killers emphasise with convicted reasons for their romanca. They reject the tag of "murder grouples". They are gen-erally convinced of their partner's innocence or that he has changed and is no longer capable of

Most have experienced disap-pointing relationships and are divorced or separated. They often suf-fer from low self-esteem. Cynics might point out that men in prison are less likely to run away than those on the outside, who have belong-term prisoners are finally released, most of these relation-

ships invariably fail. Certainly, infamy has its own curious rewards. Peter Sutcliffe gets many marriage proposals, as does Jeremy Bamber, who was convicted of murdering five members of his family at an Essex farmhouse in 1985. Harry Roberts, ailed for life at the Old Bailey in 1966 for the murders of three unarmed policeman, also gets many letters from women explaining the erotic acrobatics they would like to perform for him.

in Germany, serial killer Thomas Holst was sprung from jail by his besotted Israeli psychotherapist Tamar Segal, who met him while he was in prison. Before they met and fell in love Se gal, now in jail herself for aiding his escape, was a lesbian. Dr Glenn Wilson, reader at the

Institute of Psychlatry, London, points to the "hyper-masculinity" of convicted killers. His analysis is unashamedly Darwinian.

fringes of society, who has a high dose of testosterone. He is the kind see that as having survival value for their offspring."

Jan Arriens, secretary of Lifelines, which provides pen-friends for people on death row in the US, emphasises childhood and adolescence. "A lot of [these] women have generally suffered some kind of abuse in childhood and have learned to identify with abuse. There is a fatal attraction with people on death row for a certain kind of woman."

Arriens, who cautions women not to get romantically involved with prisoners they write to (some 2,000 women in the UK write), paper" which drive many of these relationships. "It is very easy to be romantic on paper and forget all the day-to-day difficulties you are in well its."

OST marriages ties of visiting -vigilant warders and the low-slung tables — which make any kind of physical Intimacy Impossi ble. Couples operate under condi-tions of great strain. Some, how-ever, do succeed.

Mary Rutter met her husband Barry while he was working at a while on day-release from Ford Open Prison. Barry strangled his aunt as a young man in his twenties and served 14 years before being released.

He is now back inside. His parole licence was revoked earlier this year after he was caught drink-driving a sad corollary of his chronic alcoholism which. Mary believes, could have been

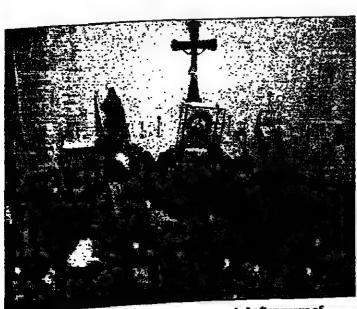
avoided by counselling. She stresses that she knew nothing about Barry's background when they first met. She also believes her husband should have m convicted of manslaughter, not murder.

"I did fancy him the first time I saw him. But I put it to the back of my mind. I thought: I have got two kids. What guy is going to want to be involved with me?"

Meanwhile, in Washington State Reformatory, Broken Arrow gets ready for his nuptials. He is marrying in haste next Thursday. But he can allow himself a wry smile at the expense of his critics. After all, he has plenty of leisure

Fidel Castro cancelled Christmas, but, says Stephen Smith, Cubans queue for Midnight Mass

Dreaming of a red Christmas



Welcome to Cuba . . . its churches are crowded after years of

T WAS Christmas Eve in Havana and the fatted pig across perfect for them. In what was althe street was getting his. A black man who looked like he had once boxed kept the pig on the roof behind the Cabaret Las Vegas, a nightspot where the girls danced to salsa till dawn.

Early on the morning of the 24th, there was a good deal of squealing coming from the roof. After several long minutes, it ceased; in the late afternoon, the man could be seen out on the roof again, gnawing a bone. It was the coldest I had known

Cuba. The temperature never fell below the middling teens centi-grade during the day, but there was mucho aire, as the Cubans said, a lot of air. In the evenings Hilda, the woman I was renting an apartment from in old, dilapidated central Havana, would put a pan of water on for my bucket bath (except on the days when there was no gas, shortages of this fuel compounding problems of electricity cuts and restricted

water supply). I wanted to be in Cuba at Christmas last year because I was intrigued by travel agents' reports that December and January were the most popular months for the island, despite or perhaps because of the fact that the closest visitors would get to a white Christmas would be a slushy desiquiri.

Tourists who spent Yuletide in the Caribbean presumably fancied the idea of getting away from reasonable to assume that some of them were hard-core Christmashaters; or at the very least, that they were ill-disposed to the tinselly trappings of the holidays

most literally a pantomime of hard-heartedness, Fidel Castro had cancelled Christmas. I could never understand why Castro's critics in Washington and Miami hadn't made more of this. There was good knocking copy in the irony that the man whose beard Nick's was the Scrooge of the Caribbean.

danger. In an interview in 1985, he fondly recalled his childhood Christmases. "Christmas Eve was a wonderful thing, because it meant 15 days of vacation — and not just 15 days of vacation, but 15 days of festive atmosphere and treats: cookies, candies and

Cuban children wrote their beg-ging letters not to Santa Claus but guerrilla and revolutionary asked them for cars, trains and movie cameras, but received toy trumpets on three consecutive Noëls. "I should have become a musiclan," he joked.

It all begged the question of why he had vetoed Christmas, the negligence of the Magi notwithstanding.

In one sense, the most obvious impact of Fidel's decision to scrap Christmas was that December 25 was not a public holiday for Cubans. It was true that at one or two of the barren official tiendas, assistants sat unconsidered at their counters like Bob Cratchit But on Christmas morning, a truck laden with boxes of food pulled up outside Hilda's and

the ration shop, where they had decorated a small, false fir. These bodegas are used to offset hardship in the country's current ship in the country's current country's mingled African and sorry state. The regime calls it the "special period in time of peace" the phase of rationing and swingeing cutbacks, apparently without end, which has accompa-nied the drying-up of aid from the former Soviet bloc and the tightening of a United States embargo.

The bodega outside Hilda's

place always seemed to have a queue, mainly of elderly people, waiting for it to open. Cubans were entitled to a daily bun. There were also four pounds of rice a month on the ration, and 10 ounces of red, green and black beans. "Sometimes there are months when you don't see soap,' said Hilda wistfully. From time to time, there were savoury biscuits and sweets for the children. There was cooking oil "when it comes".

HERE was one bottle of rum per household per month, for 20 pesos. The state bestowed its secular blessing on marriage by giving newlyweds a cake, three boxes of beer, and a ration for clothes and shoes. When Hilda's sister got married, the Revolution gave

One reason I'd wanted to spend Christmas in Havana was mass on Christmas Eve. Walking at night to the Carmen, the nearest church to my apartment and the one Hilda attended, and seeing the Carmen statue lit up; Hilda telling me that this was the most tranquilo time of year, birds — or were they bats? — skittering unloading at the bodego, around inside the cupola of the and, in a less immediate way, all

Spanish past.
We arrived at the church early,

by 11pm, and it was soon clear why. It was packed. There were smartly turned out ladies of a certain age, courting couples, men in their best suits. A black man of about 45 was asleep at the end of our new. In front of the monstrous sideboard of an altar was a Christmas tree — it wasn't real, but it was decked out with all the trimmings, including flashing lights.

Homemade wreaths decorated the columns. People took a turn around the mezzanine of the Fran-ciscan seminary next door, apparently in the forlorn hope of a seat becoming free by the time they returned to the church. The Cubans were queuing for Mass. For people so accustomed to standing in line, an hour's wait for God was not out of the way.

Why were all these people here, wondered. Did they all believe? Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve always draws a crowd, even in Britain. It remained a free, or more or less free show, in a

country of poverty.

But a Hollywood blockbuster ras screening on Cuban television, an entirely cost-free alternative attraction. Hilda, her son Nico, and I had left it in the first reel, having sat through a Brazilian soap opera, our makeshift Cu-ban family gathered in front of the television set on Christmas Eve. A sensitive issue about the derecognition of Christmas in Cuba

was what it meant for Christians,

their fellow Cubans. Going to church had never been illegal in revolutionary Cuba, but for a time

it had been very difficult.
The closing of churches marked the nadir in Castro's relations with Christians. In his most lengthy statement on religion. El Comandante explicitly denied that a single church door had been shut. But senior figures in the Catholic church told me that this was an untruth. Castro said Catholicism was the reign of Cuba's old. Spanish, slave-owning elite; perhaps this helps explain why Christmas was removed from the Cuban calender: It wasn't regarded as a festival of the

In the Carmen, the choir entered singing a carol. The pries brought up the rear, with a doll of Jesus. There was the camphor smell of the censer. The priest, standing at the altar, was momen tarily blinded by a cloud of

I talked to Hilda about going to church. Yes, she had always gone,

"Antes? Before?" "You weren't supposed to, you were afraid, and you thought that you were being watched, but you came," said Hilda.

Stephen Smith is a reporter with Channel 4 News. C Stephen Smith. This is an extract of The Land of the Miracles, published by Little, Brown on January 2. To order a copy for the special price of £16.99 inc p&p (rrp £17.99) call Guardian interactive on 0500 600102 or send a cheque payable to Guardian Interactive to 250 Western Avenue, London W3 600Z



SHOOTING STARS

Natascha McElhone



Law The young McEthone leaves LAMDA and makes for Regents Park. Not for a celebratory picnic, but for humble roles in the Open Air Theatre.

Up ... But Lady Luck smiles on tail, blonde Natascha. Merchant-lvory swoop for her, to play long-suffering Francoise Gilot in their Picaseo biopic

and away ... Her performance as lover to the cavalier Cubist wins great acclaim, and job offers duly follow.

Failing: Sylvester Btallone



geting ... The big-shot behind Riccky and Rambo can do no wong. Except try his hand at comedy. Stopi Or My Mom Will Shoot, anyone?

going . . . Siy announces that his films are 'stupid'. The 50-year-old bruiser now wents the Al Pacho roles

goings Daylight, released this week, sees Sty in action mode yet again just as he announces this that he's moving to Landon — Florida is too dengerous.

Art forms of the century

At the close of its 100th year, cinema is haunted by a terror of its own demise. Jonathan Romney on how the movies became a monster

Terminated

AST year, 40 leading film-makers from around the world contributed to a portmanteau film called Lumière Et Compagnie. In each was commissioned to make a film using a reconstruction of the Lumière brothers' prototype movis

camera, the Cinematographe. Rach film had to be shot in a sinsecn film and to be snot in a single take lasting roughly 50 seconds, the time it took to hand-crank the Lumières" original film strips, also recreated for the purpose. The filmmakers — including David Lynch, James Ivory, Zhang Yimou and Snike Lee — rose to the challenge. Spike Lee - rose to the challenge

ing pedestrian nothings, but a few finding ingenious ways to cele-brate the simplicity and silence cinema has largely repressed. It's understandable that at the

and of cinema's first century film-makers should be tempted to return to its source and try to fathom, in retrospect, what cinema could possibly have meent when it was untrammelled by a century of was untrammelled by a century of social, commercial and theoretical impositions. There's a powerful anxiety behind this queet: on the cusp of the millennium, chema is haunted by a terror of its own impending death by returning to the access of its birth.

This obsession with fragments of history seems to be peculiarly Suropean, while the American film imagination: largely seems intent on repressing the past altogether. We tend to think of Hollywood as being fixated on the past, in its tendency to thrive on sequels and remakes. But Hollywood in the late next millernium. In the current wave of disaster-1990s is addicted to the future, to

technologies of novelty.

The development of digital effects — the art of the impossible, immaterial image — has fuelled the return to prominence of science fiction: of previously unrealisable films such as independence

epics, however, are not just about the future, but about the end of something; apocalypse in its vari-ous guises. In Independence Day, the Earth is ravaged by alterns, then reprieved to flourish again; dooms-day is eclipsed by a rebirth for the next millerminm.

related films — Jurassic Park, Waterworld, Twister, two forthcomwaterworld, Twister, two fortucesing volcano films — apocalypse is inflected by a New Age subtext of natural renewal and cosmic life cycles. These films enact the fantasy of conjuring up doomeday yet controlling. It (the whirlwind in Twister is the ultimate controllable tarce, a limiticane that is entirely obod-emerated). In these fantasies of a millennial tabula rasa, Hollywood is invoking the end of its 20th century and trying to take sym-bolic control of its century to come. Yet, in presenting these speciacular futures, cinema is very much

in thrall to a nostalgia that has afflicted it from its very start. The medium constantly strives to recapture that shock of the real, that primal moment enshrined in myth, when the Lumières first ter-rified and delighted roomfuls of unwary viewers with the bau-rateing vision of the train arriving at La Ciotat station.

A century on, film-makers are obliged to find ever more elaborate ways to bolster the effect of reality. ways to buster the enect of reamy.
The need to make images increasingly vivid and extraordinary has led to a process of constant inflation in the technology of wonder.
Digitals, the IMAX format, 10 times the size of the standard 35mm frame; Showscan projection at 60 frames per second, bypassing the sye's ability to discern projected frames from reality—all these are moving us towards a cinema of

The result may not be what we traditionally think of as cinema at all. It's always been a central part all. It's always been a central part of the cinematic process that the viewer is not simply fooled or overcome, but persuaded — that we contribute to the creation of the mirage by maintaining some critical distance towards what we see. But the new technology aspires to hypass the critical faculty entirely, to create a seamless image that can't be unpicked by the eye. Critical orthodoxy regards nineties Hollywood chema as a smart, fronic interweaving of codes that appeal to the culturally hyper-conscious to the coliurally hyper-conscious viswer; and yet on the level of visual perception, we're in danger of becoming the most passave andi-

nces yet. It's hard to do anything but marvel passively at the signs and wonders emerging from the digital utopia. Since the radical innova-tions of Terminator 2 (1991) and Jurassic Park (1993), Hollywood has been driven by a Prome drive to create its own life forms, to challenge the old natural bounds of possibility. The old Hollywood caveat "it can't be done" need never apply again. Digitals can melt and metallise the human form (Termi-nator 2), or mutilate it (Death Becomes Her, Tim Burton's forthcoming Mars Attacks!); it can create monsters (Jurassic Park, The Abyss) or even, we're promised, human life. James Cameron's Avatar aspires to be the first film with a cast of entirely digitallygenerated stars.

Soon, digitals may raise the dead; the long-promised screen res-urrection of Marilyn Monroe and Bumphrey Bogart is said to be closer than expected. In the meancloser finn expected. In the meantime, rather more abstractly, the
film Dragonheart has caught the
"essence" of Sean Connery using
motion capture techniques to
record his facial expressions and
programme them into the features
of a digital dragon. It's the first

to quantify an actor's "soul", which suddenly looks less instable than

The meteoric rise of the new digital artillery — which even five years ago, Hollywood regarded as marginal — is radically changing the face of mainstream cinema. With the number of specialist per-sonnel and amount of equipment required to make an effects movie, the director is no longer the all-powerful dictator-visionary who once flourished under the auteur model of film-making, but something like a glorified project manager coordinating a huge corporate research initiative. And, as the film research initiative. And, as the num industry pumps more resources into training digital specialists, the openings for non-effects led cinema

may by necessity become limited.

If independent low-budget
American film-making is so energetic, that's partly because it recognises itself as an endangered species. Large-scale film-making is likely to be an increasingly exclusive field, as much ruled by technoogical control as it was in the heyday of the Hollywood studio system. National cinemas are cerain to lose out in the struggle, if they do not have the resources necessary to make a film meet the international visual standards that

digital technology imposes.

But digitals also entail thornier questions of the way cinema shows us the world, or conjures up a simulcrum of it. It has always been perilously naive to look to film for a faithful record of the world, but the old arguments about reality and on arguments about reality and deception have taken a complex new turn as the very material of the screen image has changed. Digitals make the image simply a plantic mass of manipulable pixels.

The more spectacular digital

images are transparently hallucinations, but more problematic is the discreet doctoring of reality in a film such as Forrest Gump, in a film such as Forrest Gump, in which Gery Sinise's legs are digitally amputated in surreptitious hyper-real fashion. Realist Hollywood cinema now routinely has recourse to invisible erasing of unwelcome elements — safety wires, TV aerials in costume dramas, the wrong face in a crowd

mas, the wrong face in a crowd.
But beyond making realism sus pect, there's a more intangible form of reality loss: the loss of that form of reality loss: the loss of that indefinable reality of things that indefinable reality of things that you could best call "presence" or "aura". Digitally created objects can look perfectly real cindeed, excessively so. They are hyper-literal because every aspect of their appearance — their weight, their texture, the way they reflect light — is programmed, predetermined. — is programmed, predetermined, leaving nothing to chance. They lack that element of accident, of peculiarity that has always given

Cinema is very much in thrall to a nostalgia that has afflicted it from its start

screen objects their visual and mythic substance —Kane's snow-storm, Chico Marx's hat, the tree in Tarkovsky's The Sacrifice. We used to be able to get sentimental about such things because their happen-stance quality left room for senti-ment, but digital objects are so crammed with precision that there's no more for sentimental about there's no room for us to project our feelings into.

however speciacular, often strikes us as strangely affectless; however much we accept the truth that cin-ema is an art of illusion, we often feel cheated if we sense that a real presence has not passed in front of he camera

li's a strange paradox — a cinema which aims to heighten the sense of reality by expelling the real from its terms of reference. You can imagine a reaction against this tendency, as viewers suffering from reality withdrawal start demanding the real in its rawest, most verifiable form. Shortchanged by the farile spectacle of Arnie battling digital accounts. make a comeback). We can expect a demand for low-budget verità drama set in real places, and perhaps a major documentary boom. There may be a fetishistic demand for the more extreme sorts of verthe spectacle — real sex real death — and films will be prefaced by the guarantee that no fakery took place, just as rock LPs used to bear the Luddite assurance "No synthe-

The Guardian December 21 1996

sisers used". But perhaps the desire for reality will result in the emergence of a different, subtler sort of reality the sort of intangible reality of people, places, objects that we asso-ciate with the humanist cinema tradition. The Cannes triumph of Secrets And Lies this year suggests a vote for the reality that attaches to people's faces, actions, anviron-ments in a film — for the sort of intensely crafted, intensely lived experience that demands the viewer's emotional and imaginative participation, and that Holly wood has entirely sidelined.

But, taking things further, we can imagine films that explore a different realism, that use an effect of heightened everydayness and even banality to hint at something else. Paul Schrader once identified the visually austere films of Robert Bresson, Carl Theodor Dreyer and Yasujiro Ozu as examplars of "transcendental style".

If there's a transcendental stylist at work today it's Denmark's Lars Von Trier, whose Breaking The Waves shows us little that's visually spectacular, but who use a particular sort of energy in his camerawork, and an unusual depth of intimacy in acting style to produce something that's emotionally involving, hard to quantify, morally involving, and that hints at a religious dimension, if you care to respond to it. You could call it spiritual realism.

ON TRIER'S is just one possible approach to a crisis of the cinema image. Most contempofilm-making regards the picture on screen as a purely instrumental mechanism for dispensing pleasurable stimuli. Somehow the image's texture and weight have been impoverished; it's as if the image itself, with all its potential richness, were a messy, embarrassing surplus to be discarded as soon as possible. Mystically suspect though Von Trier's film may be, it subscribes to the attitude that chema is "an art unlike any other; quintessentially modern; distinctively accessible; poetic and mysterious and erotic and moral — all at the same time." The words are Susan Sontag's in weight have been impoverished: The words are Susan Sontag's in The Guardian earlier this year, lamenting not only what she saw as the "ignominious, irreversible decline" of cinema, but also the end of cinephilis, a particular regard for film as something that's as big as life.

If we want cinema to maintain that big-as-life quality, we have to hope that independent film-making survives — independent in the sense of out there, dissident, argumentative. We have to place faith in mentative. We have to place faith in auteurs, in film-makers with a passion not only for subjects but also for the textures and rhythms of the image, and above all with a desire to transform them, violently if necessary. We should be looking to people like (to name a few) Atom Egoyan, Julio Medem, Wong Kar-Wal, Jane Campion, Todd Haynes, the Quays, Moufida Tlafil, Rose Troche. But the future shouldn't entail a simplistic art-house/Hollyentail a simplistic art-house/Holly-wood divide — we should be getting equally excited about developments yet to come from corporate names — Industrial Light and Magic, Pixar, Digital Domain, the IMAX Systems Corporation, Systems Corporation, Dreamworks.

The cinephilia of the future may not be the one we know - it may be home-centred and electronic. We may be seeing the last of the old "church" model — a congregation sitting in the dark watching the reflection of light through celluloid. Cinema's survival at the end of the millennium is a hot topic of debate because it's twice as exciting to be able to lament and cele-brate in the same breath. The important thing is not to be falsely ingenuous. It's not a question of filming with innocent eyes, as Wim Wenders proposes — right now, film-makers need eyes that are sceptical or angry, or mischievous, or mendacious, or sentimental, but steely above all, and focused on the





street trivial pursuit







torvill & dear

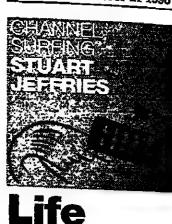
a gift from us to you

Spend £25" now and we'll give you £25 worth of money off vouchers to spend after Christmas. It's our way of saying Merry Christmas

and giving you an even happier New Year.







N Starsky And Hutch (Bravo) our boys went undercover as two hotel hairdressers, Mr Tyrone and Mr Marlene. This proved very confusing. I always thought they were hair-dressers, thanks to the toocarefully blow-dried hair and the absence of split ends. Who but a unisex hairdresser would wear a belted cardigan? Who but the LAPD would employ

these guys as law enforcers? Hutch wore an ill-fitting wig, Starsky sported a French accent that had escaped from a Ferrero Rocher ad. "With zis accent, Mr Marlene, I will woo ze ladies." "Eccelente!" The accent with which, no doubt, Paul Michael Glaser used as a really irritating party turn.

David Soul played Mr Marlene with effete lisps and temperamental head twitches — the straight man's burdensome notion of gayness. As if they were threatened by this gay stereotyping, both men went into heterosexual overdrive: Hutch gave the obliging wife in room 1232 more than a shampoo and set; Starsky had s string of blondes hanging on his new-found Gallic charms.

Their job? To thwart the mas-ter jewel thief known only as the Baron, who was coming to their LA hotel to steal some dia-monds. "Who is this baron? What's he look like?" asked Starsky. "No one knows. No pictures, no prints and no name. Nothing," said Bernie Hamilton's long-suffering Captain, top button undone already sweating profusely into his shirt 10 minutes in, but oth-erwise with little to do except be that liberal token, a deskbound black cop with at most three speeches per hour. All that was known of the

Baron from the Scotland Yard report was that he smoked Corona Superba cigars.
Ah premises, premises. In the seventies you could get away with this guff: the show ended

with Starsky and Hutch seated under blow-driers sucking on a pair of Corona Superb sents from the Baron. "Until the rematch, gentlemen," said

What would happen if Doctor Finlay and Doctor Cameron swapped jobs with Starsky and Hutch? Both, after all, are stock double acts with all the mutual fondness and occasional irrascibility that implies.

How would Finlay handle the casual sex and itys to live to

casual sex and jive-talking with Huggy Bear? How would Starsky deal with Janet's

Hogmanay clooty dumpling? But the difficulty of imagining the swap is not just because of cultural differences; it is because of the unbridgeable gap between genres. There is little scope for mavericks in medical dramas; what the pub-lic demands from its TV doctors is consummate professional-ism, perhaps a disastrous personal life that provides a counterpoint, but a steady hand on the stethoscope, and a bedside manner that involves

keeping both feet on the floor. TV detectives have more fun: they are often encouraged to be bed hoppers, to drink too much,

detest authority, abandon
paperwork and dress up as
swingers to nail the bad guys.
Doctor Fialoy (TTV) was the
single malt to Starsky and
Hutch's umbrella-filled cocktail, pouring out a seasonal draught of snowbound drama. It was a snug chamber piece, a foursome trapped indoors with nothing but whisky, roaring

What would happen if Dr Cameron and Dr Finlay swapped jobs with Starsky and Hutch?

fires and flickering desire to keep them from madness and board games: the same concett that some TV programme some-where plays reassuringly each year. Finlay was romantically dallying with delectable Dr Napier, Cameron had a small heart attack and recalled his fondness for Janet; Janet work a well-starched pinafore defiantly throughout the festivities.

I've always had a bit of a thing for David Rentoul, Sexier as Darcy than Colin Firth, even now as Finlay he drops his jaw at the end of clauses like Gordon Brown. With Rentoul

Doctor Finlay had a nice line in sexual coyness. After the implausible Boy's Own moral cosspit of Starsky And Butch, the restraint of Tannochbrae was oddly touching. Finlay offered Dr Napier his bed, and waited for her reaction, before adding that he, of course, would take the sofa. "No offence," replied Dr Napier. "I'd feel strange penetrating the bachs of Argen Hou quite so biatant a manner." Did someone say "penetrating"? Janet - cover your earsi

Marry, be damned

What have The Merry Wives Of Windsor and Ibsen's Little Eyolf got in common? Not a lot, thought Michael Billington, until he saw the RSC's two latest productions

The revelation

BSEN and Shakespeare: un-questionably the greatest of all dramatists. And the RSC fortuitously links them with a double Stratford opening of Little Eyolf at The Swan and The Merry Wives Of Windsor at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre: two plays dealing, from wildly differing perspectives, with marriage, jealousy

Little Eyolf, written late in Ibeen's life in 1894, is a particularly tough nut: one that Adrian Noble's masterly production cracks with great anlows. What he grasps is that this sombre, brooding play is essentially about the painful process of resurrection: that only by facing the darkest, bitterest truths about ourselves can we hope to achieve spiritual renewal.

As in Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf, a child — in this case indisputably real — is the means of exposing marital guilt. The impotent idealist, Alfred Allmers, and the fiercely sensual Rita have never recovered from the fact that their son was crippled through their own negligence: as a baby, he fell off a

table while they were making love.

And when, later, the nine-yearold Eyolf is hured into the sea by the Rat Wife and drowns, Alfred and Rita are forced into a process of almost Strindbergian soul-strip-ping Alfred confronts his passion for his presumed half-sister, Asta: for his presumed half-sister, Asta:
Rita her own devouring jealousy.
Both also acknowledge that, for all
their protestations, "We never
really loved Eyolf."

That line is greeted in Noble's
production by a ruefully ironic
laugh from Joanne Pearce's Rita
and Robert Glenister's Alfred. It

becomes the pivotal moment in the production suggesting the self-excavation that leads ultimately to tentative renewal. "Know thyself" said the encients; and them's point is that only after one has dissected one's own life-lies can one hope to change either oneself or the world. It is a play about learning and, since it is the heroine who finally proposes to open up the house to the village's impoverished children, it could even be retitled Edu-

Noble, whose earlier productions of A Doll's House and The Master Builder revealed an extraordinary understanding of Ibsen, also gets the point here: that the play is domi-nated by what Ibsen calls "the law of change". Joanne Pearce's superb Rita moves from a tigerish sexual pealousy through a frantic death-wish towards a form of spiritual rebirth: she is unforgettable in the last act as, with a ghostly pallor, she removes a series of mones from her capacions overcoat pockets as if she anned to mimic her son's waters

role of surrogate village mother.

Robert Glenister also registers Aifred's transition from self-deceiv-ing idealist to earthbound realist with nervy intensity. And there is impeccable support from Derbhle from Damian Lewis as the practical engineer who offers her the only hope of rational escape. Rob How-ell's set, with a fault-line symbolically running through the floor, also suffers internal erosion with each act, as if the characters are reduced to living on the edge of a precipice; which in this vertiginous

masterpiece they virtually are.
After the shattering emotional intensity of the tormented souls of Norway. The Merry Wives Of Windsor seems quite relaxing. But Ian Judge, as if to belie his reputa-tion as the RSC's Dr Pangloss. comes up an autumnal, russet-bued production in which the fun is somewhat fitful.

Indeed, he even gives an Insentite twist to the climax of the scene where the maniacally jealous Ford ransacks his house in search of his wife's assumed lover. As Edward Petherbridge's crestfallen, obses sive Ford urges his wife to go and make dinner, Susannah York's hitherto sumny bright-eyed Alice stalks off for all the world as if she is about the slam the door like Nora in A Doll's House. It's so startling a moment that one wishes the idea of a marriage founded on suspicion

and mistrust had been allowed to shadow the rest of the comedy.

The chief problem with this production is Leslie Phillips's seedy, saloon-bar lecher of a Falstaff. He lacks weight, which undercuts the whole toke of his being hypothesis. lacks weight, which undercuts the whole joke of his being bundled into a buck-basket even more sig
But there is a priceless supporting He is the brightest feature of a goodish production that intriguing bundled into a buck-basket even more sig
Dr Caius which goes beyond the ingly hints at the Ibsenite nature of (01788-295623).



Guilt edged . . . Joanne Pearce and Robert Glanister in Little Byolf

final exclusion from this smug,

and in Act III the couple's look of | Garth Cartwright On

nificantly he lacks any aura of | Europhobic, funny-foreigner joke to present us with a man of insa-tiable curiosity about the language that he so constantly mishandles. depleted aristocracy so that his middle-class Eden goes for little. But there is a priceless supporting He is the brightest feature of a

have stopped even a cynic's heart.
But everyone else appeared to be
having a ball too, dancing with a
confidence that came from know-

ing exactly what they were doing and why (It's revealing just how good the Royal can be when, as in this ballet, they are properly rehearsed.) Detail after detail in

the choreography emerged as if

Windsor marriages but that lacks a Falstaff of the right spiritual, as well as physical, fatness: after Little Evolf, one craves a Big Jack.

'the world's second

best band', No Way Sis

Zombie

karaoke

HE Oasis phenomenon keeps

ing Oasls songs live in Greater London Radio's morning session then head to the Empire in the

evening to see No Way Sis do their take on the Manchester super-

stars. At your local pub there may have been Noasis, Quoasis or Oasisn't doing a similar turn. If

ever there is to be a remake of The Invasion Of The Body Snatchers,

it could centre on groups of lank-

haired, lantern-jawed young men suddenly sighted on stages throughout the country.

No Way Sis, only a year old, have reached a level of popularity that

sees them managing to headline the Empire two nights running

and secure a five-album contract with EMI. It is a first for any trib-

ute band. With Noel and Liam's stamp of approval, the brothers

Gallagher having called them "the second-best band in the world", the Sis collective must feel blessed.

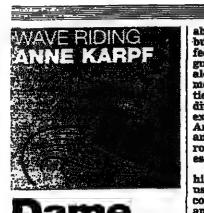
Live, the Glaswegian band make a passable Oasis, with the audience relishing note-perfect readings of Supersonic and Hello. Joe McKay

captures Noel's chunky guitar flavour while his brother, Jerry,

does a fine turn as Liam. Yet there

rolling: on Thursday you could hear Wonderwall play-

The clones



Dame Edna, RIP

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PUNERAL took place on Radio 2 last week: the Radio 2 last were laid Edna Everage's wit were laid to rest. The corpse was a skeletal thing—s/he'd no wit left to speak of for a long time now. But for those of us who can recall weeping over Barry Humphries's creation almost two decades back, listening to Dome Edna's Aural Experience (Radio 2) was a doleful experience: the great parodist had pupated into those he'd once parodied.

You knew it was going to be had when the intro was delivered by David Jacobs, with the sort of I'm-in-on-the-joke mock theatricality which was to beset most of the show's guests. Certainly spoof chat shows

present celebrities with a prob-lem: do they play sincere and treat them as just another platform on the self-promotion circuit, ignoring the fact that their host's whole persona is a comic ruse? Or, to avoid appearing like a self-absorbed tosser, are they prepared to inflate and distort their carefully-con-structed image to match their bost's ? Such are the postmodern dilemmas, and hitherto there was no solution: if you tried to take on Dame Edna she'd surely outwit you, and you'd end by looking an even

bigger tosser. But the guests on last week's Dame Edna Christmas show, set on a tropical island, soon cottoned on to a new fact: they were all playing the same game. were all playing the same game. This Dame Edna was in the schmooze business, and the jokes so feeble they belonged in a cracker, it's not that Edna Healey, Shirley Bassey, Joanna Lumley et al should have been

abused in the name of comedy. but this was lazy, barb-free, feelgood humour which the guests could comfortably play along with since it sanctioned more or less the same quanti-ties of amour propre as any tra-ditional chat-show, to the extent of allowing Jeffrey Archer to chum up to the Dame and, yes, archly talk about his royal succession bill in Edna-

esc. Ugh.
Though Humphries dropped
his "possums" stuff, he still
used "spooky" whenever he
couldn't think of anything
amusing to say, which was often. Fantasy and brutal honesty had evanesced, replaced by a Woolworth camp, no longer comic and continents away from real camp.

As a joke on fame and vanity, Dame Edna was long ago sup-planted by Alan Partridge, and Steve Coogan knew better than to let him return each year like the Christmas panto. In his early theatre performances, Humphries achieved a superb poignant tone as a ghost. This might have been developed into something remarkable, had he strangled the constricting Dame a good six years ago; instead Humphries has allowed her turn into Danny La Rue.

Spooks.
Radio 5 Live served up a right slice of balderdash on Wednesday morning, when The Magazine discussed "evolutionary psychology". The occasion was the publication of a new Demos report which, at least in the version proffered here, pur-ported to explain everything from why so many step-parents abuse their stepchildren to why most of us are going to pig out over Christmas — by recourse

to Darwinian explanations. Journalists adore finding biological theories to explain stereotypes and confirm prein-dices (after the criminal gene and the gay gene, are we to have a step-parent gene and a Christmas pudding one?), but this was media science at its shoddiest. Against a back-ground of the kind of music better suited to a beachwear fashion show, there came an absurd succession of "studies

show" and "according to research" snippets. In the discussion which followed, only Paul Barker sounded the necessary note of scepticism, while presenter Disna Madill, so competent over issues like Dunblane, seemed completely out of her depth and didn't steer the discussion, but kept returning it to unexamined traisms like free will.

On this hearing, evolutionary psychology appeared to be a close relative that other great branch of psychology - pop.



Bruce Sansom and Miyako Yoshida as the Prince and Cinderella

Fairy entertaining

Judith Mackrell has a ball at the Royal Ballet's production of Cinderella

The treat

About Frederick Ashton's cinderella is that everyone gets to the ball — the Fairy Godmother and her attendants, the jester, the hairdresser, the Prince's friends and even the Ugly Sisters are all given steps of surprisingly equal beauty and wit.

In fact the 1948 ballet, choreo-graphed to Prokofiev's classic

democracy, where everyone on-stage has to connect with everyone else. During the funny scenes, the jokes are lobbed around the entire cast and the romance of the lovers final embrace is clinched by the expression of wonder on the onlookers faces, and by the silent howls of anguish from the

Ugly Sisters.
The work is British ballet at its

ished solos but on a kind of comic | British dancing at its peak. At its centre was Miyako Yoshida, mak-ing her debut as Cinderella. During the first act, her natural modesty combined with everyone else's bustle kept her slightly in the background. But in Act II her dancing powered into brilliance and grandeur.

and granucur.

Picking her way through Ashton's footwork with carlike delicacy and speed, she showed you every sharp accent and every gracious curve with wonderful clarity. In fact the 1948 ballet, choreographed to Prokofiev's classic score, is a perfect company show-case — depending not only on pol-

freshly dusted.

Murial Valtat's Godmother wove chicly poised magic with her arms while her four Fairles evoked the colours of their differ-

ent seasons with vivid accuracy. Sarah Wildor's Spring was so fiercely lush that her tiny body seemed barely able to contain the choreography's force.
Tetsuya Kumakawa was at his

Jester, but he kept his performing ego within decent bounds, as did Ashley Page and Ian Webb, who were very funny but not too rampant as the Ugly Sisters. There was real observation, real acting in their performances that made them far more than a couple of

guys in skirts.

But all through the evening you wanted to hang onto the tiniest roles, like Phillip Mosley's wickedly sardonic dancing master and Peter Abeggien as the Napoleon lookalike comic suitor. With his body corkscrewed into stiff, lascivious angles and his eyes gleaming beadily out of a doughy face, Abegglen came over as a cross between Toad of Toad Hall and a convicted sex criminal

His improvised stage business with a dropped necklace, which he handled like some erotic fetish, was so brilliantly creepy that even the Sisters drew back in distaste. Though Abegglen was often tucked discreetly away between other dancers, his performance was so abominably enjoyable that I was desolate when he left the stage.

Cinderella is in rep at the Royal Opera

is no real spark, and their absolute mimicry of Oasis's sullen stage House until January 4 (0171-304 4000).

presence suggests a karaoke crew. A plodding Live Forever demonstrates a marked lack of dynamics. Playing no original material they encored with their debut single, I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing. The joke is that The New Seekers sued Oasis for stealing the melody from their anaemic anthem.

Unfortunately, that is as funny as the Sis get. Where the Abba trib-ute band Bjorn Again possess a celebratory sense of camp, No Way Sis are an irony-free zone. These wannabes fail to observe how derivative and dumb Oasis often are. Watching them is to be a witness to rock music at its most anally absurd.

The audience and the band are both aware that this is at once homage and pantomime, but No Way Sis fail to play it for laughs. Yes, they look like Oasis and sound like Oasis but No Way Sis are, finally, The Rutles without the punch-line So why does Noel Gallagher continue to push the Sis? I imagine that, with Oasis only playing occasional stadium gigs, the riff bandit enjoys knowing his songs are being thrashed out every night. Bigger than The Beatles and damn near impossible to escape.
Oasis have set the pod people

The powers that be are no longer content with power alone, says **Vera Rule**

Vanity, vanity, all is vanity

Provocations

Ruffiven the Highland Vampyre, in a late Georgian melodrama shown in Christopher Frayling's biting history of Count Dracula on BBC1 this week. And who was under Ruthven's period slap? Not a thespian, but the sec-ond earl of Gowrie — current chairman of the Arts Council.

Have you noticed how many entertainment executives now want to perform? It's as if the reason for having power over the camera is so that you can locate yourself in front of it We're not complaining if an exactor succumbs to exhibition-



ing director can't fill it before shoot-ing starts Tuesday.
But that doesn't excuse Alan

| Bowie at 50 special. Both you -and TV — have moved on since you last did it 25 years ago, Mr Yentob. Then there's Michael Wearing, head of BBC drama serials (Boys From The Blackstuff to Pride And Prejudice). Is he quietly fulfilled in his job? Possibly But not enough to prevent him from guest-appearing in Joseph Con-rad's Nostromo, as a mine-owner. (He won't be away from his desk long, Mr Birt, he's axed to death after three minutes.) There's a suggestion of masque-

ing about all this. Not as in wear-ing masks. Fellows couldn't be bolder about it, you should see the press releases. No, the masque was the preferred entertainment genre

the audience had to listen to all these words spoken by nobodies professional actors who got to love, die and be admired for four hours. The maximum visibility the audience could achieve, by contrast, was to sit by the stage, flaunting their clothes and persons. Enter the masque. Plot: vesti-

gial. Lines: irrelevant — you could hire real actors, singers and musi-cians for the real work, like learning or, God, rehearsing. Sets and spectacle: extremely expensive.
Costumes: splendiferous. That
was the point. Everyone could
wear wigs and show off their legs,
pretend to the excitement of showin Why special could be successed. biz. Why sponsor a dreary group of actor men, when you, or someone you fancied, could waft down on a

cloud displaying a bare bosom?

The masque did for the English drama for 60 years; out with King Lear (no guest spot dance-ons), in with Samuel Daniel's Tethy's Pestiexactor succumbs to exhibitionism. We accept it's convenient to charm an assistant director into a mini-role as a weirdo when the cast.

But that doesn't excuse Alan the preferred entertainment genre at the court of James I, the valuest king in our history. With Elizablike Lord Gowrie — everybody bethan and early Jacobean plays, lan Malin on the Irish outsiders hoping to clean up in the fifth round's only all-first division clash in the Pilkington Cup today

Bath time for Anderson's Exiles action wipes

took his London Irish side to Bath yesterday afternoon, a trip that looked as futile as going

Christmas shopping with an expired Barclaycard.
No disrespect to the Extles, and the Recreation Ground is not quite the citadel it was, but Bath have not been beaten in the Pilkington Cup there for six years, since Dean Richards, in his memo-rable phrase, "burrowed in the mud like a mole" all after-noon and Leicester beat the then holders 12-0.

The only all-first division tie of this weekend's fifth round may be English rugby's equivalent of staring down the harrel of a gun for the Irish but Anderson, one-time Ireland lock and captain, is

Something of a character in his playing days, Anderson once gained notoriety when he marched his Ireland side up to the noses of Wayne Shel-ford's All Blacks while they we performing their ritual haka before a game at Lans-

Yes, of course it'll be difficult Bath have excellent players in every position, the game's on their own ground and there'll be 10,000 screaming people there. But there's no reason why we can't win." Ulster, where he had been di-rector of rugby at Dungannon, same capacity. He signed a two-year contract after taking over the reins from the forme England centre Clive Wood-ward, whose last months at Sunbury were torrid to say the least.

Woodward resigned during the summer in a committee room row over his lack of Irish accesivy. He was persuaded to stay on but found coaching a newly profession-alised club and holding down a job incompatible and after introducing Anderson to the Extles he left for good. Meanwhile the Extles have

been losing league matches at an alarming rate. On the second weekend of the season they beat Northampton, alongside whom they had been promoted to Lesgue One in the summer, with no little



In the hot seat . . . Willie Anderson sets out for Bath yesterday for his first Pilkington Cup match as director of rugby at London Irish Andread State Control of the State Cont

other eight league games and are anchored alongside Orrell and West Hartlepool at the foot of a division from which three clubs at least will be rel-

egated next spring.

The Exiles have imported some of the best forwards ireland has to offer, Jeremy Davidson, Victor Costello and national side; they have be-come good losers. Anderson is determined to

break this habit. "Since I came here I've discovered that eveyone is determined to do what's necessary to turn things around. There is major potential here and there's no

bury. But they have lost their | reason why we can't get into a | which Ireland lost 23-6. the winning sequence. I'm spend-ing 100 per cent of my time coaching at the moment but I want to get the development of players right. We want to keep the Irish ethos here. There will always be Irish players in England looking to play at a top club and it's my job to make sure they come

> On the surface Anderson, who has been an assistant coach with Ireland and has made no secret of his desire to have his country's top job, would appear too laid-back to instil a ruthless regime at Sunbury. After that game against the All Blacks in 1989,

captain gave an after-dinner speech in which he said rugby union should be put in perspective. A friend of his had recently died in the Troubles. That was important, not losing a game of rugby.

"I still think that way. You have to keep work, family and friends in perspective. The job is important, you give it

your all and you need a professional approach and a sense of balance." And Anderson can be ruthless, as his opponents on the field discovered. The No. 8 Costello, dropped to the bench for this game, has also discov-ered this to his cost.

Fulcher will be missing from the second row today after injuring his wrist in Ire land's defeat by Australia last the Irish but there is a ray of hope. Bath, cup winners 10 times in 13 seasons, have off-field problems of their own, with their coach Brian Ashion taking a week off to consider his future after an uness relationship with the club's di

Lingfield

absence, shrugs off their troubles, "We've always bad inter pecially when Jack Rowell was coach. But what we have learned to do is blank the offfield stuff when the whistle goes. Players and officials live on the edge down at Bath." Bath have offered a contract to Argentina's lock Ger

man Lienes to help ensure that on the pitch their stock

Whistle-stop out big games

the strike by referees which has left little to watch in Wales

T IS normally the weather that brings the game in Wales to a halt in December but not one match will be ber but not one match will be played in the top five divisions today hecause the welsh Society of Rugby Referess has gone on strike in an acrimonious dispute over pay. Six rearranged Swalec Cup matches, involving clubs from the Second Division and

from the Second Division and below, are going ahead, together with a few minor league games. The Welsh Rugby Union, after contacting referees individually this week and telephing other unions for help, called peace talks on Thursday night but. even though progress was made, it was too late for today's fixture list to be

There are three central points of contention: the referees want to be paid on a sliding scale for taking charge of matches in the top division; they want the deal backdated to the start of the season; and they have refused to sign individual contracts.

The WRU initially refused all three demands, offering a

deal for the top two divisions beckdated to December 1 and insisted on contracts.

The union backed down on the first two on Thursday night but refused to hudge on contracts. An emergency meeting was held last night and a further one is planned for next week to prevent the

day's league programme.
"All this would have been everted had the WRU acted property and professionally," ud Hugh Banfield, secretary of the society. But to call a meeting so late in the day, having refused to talk for the previous two weeks, was ter-rible management. They have nisread the situation totally and they are to blame for the lack of rugby this weekend.

Uttoxeter

2.55 What's Year

POP PORM TIPS: Act Prince S. Spe-

David Plummer on | such stiff resistance I cannot understand, because our package is only costing them £80,000. I do not know if they thought we would not carry out our threat or that we were not united in our stand but they have learned a hard lesson, even if they saw the light too late."

Banfield welcomed the Union's climbdown over two of the issues but said his society would not budge over contracts. "We will not sign. Many of our members cannot because of their jobs. What other sport contracts its

It is the clubs in Wales which are counting the cost rather than the WRU. "This strike is a disaster," said the Llanelli chairman Stuart Gallacher, who made desperate attempts to fulfil his club's home fixture against Bridgend today.

"We arranged for a lower grade referee to control the match but Bridgend objected because he had never taken control of a First Division match and there would have been no neutral touchjudges.

The Bridgend chairman Derrick King sympathised. "If it were not such an important fixture with a bearing on the top four of the First Div-ision and a place in the European Cup next season we would have obliged because we know Llanelli's financial position is not healthy. But what I cannot understand is why the WRU did not take steps to prevent this strike a long time ago.
"If it continues, clubs will

be in very serious financial trouble. A number rely on them affoat. That support is given on the basis of pro-jected cash flow. Home games jected cash flow. Home games are an important part of that.

was to be the visit of the First Division leaders Swanses to Cardiff but pride of place now goes to the all-Second Div-ision cup the between Cardiff Institute and Abertillery. "We will now lose some £25,000," said the Cardiff chief execu-"Quite why they offered tive Gareth Davies.

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12.25 TROMPICAL HIGH ROHOOL PART PUPILS HONGE HONDLE AM CLASH

Twickenham digs deep to give clubs a £40,000 Christmas bonus

TWICKENHAM is playing | English Professional Rughy | Clubs now owned by | © Members at Coventry | Santa Claus by giving all | Union Clubs, which represents the 24, signing an | Newcastle and Richmond | bid from the city's soccurision clubs a 240,000 Christ | agreement with the RFU | have been able to pay some | chib. They voted instead, mas bonus to help the poorer teams settle their

The payments, which will receive their promised 28 cost the Rugby Football million this season was Union £960,000, are being that a deal should be formade despite the delay in | mally algored.

that was negotiated on De-cember 5. An early condition of the clubs starting to

have been able to pay some huge salaries for their pro-fessional players. But the clubs without benefactors have been reluctantly dragged into paying size-able salaries before Twick-

Bell's scottish league

Premier Division Celtic v Dundee Utd ... Hearts v Rangers

First Division Clydebank v East File.

Second Division Clyde v Berwick ______ Livingston v Queen of South ____ Stenhousemulr v Bradhin ____

by a large majority, to explore the best possible deal with the property group Leander which wants a con-trolling interest at Coundon Road in return for enham has helped pay bills. | buying a million £1 shares.

p Hardise, Good to well: * Demajor Ministre. — In branches after house's many descriptings when latest IIII outling. 12.30 miner somme imety: 1 diget (7) (CD) (MP) & L Misore 6 Frincibles of Lim (7) (CD) Mry M Long 9-1 PHIMOS ARST (10) (D) S Mailor 4-1)-0 MATOTHIMETYAL (S) P Missign 4-1)-1 PAULY: WIDE SUPPORT (1708) (D) A Moore 17-02-Pattop: publishar (1209) J Bridger 3-10-1 (0-05 MEMBER ET) P Wisheroft 5-10-1 442223- BMLLYWOYS (2005) E Wheeler 7-10-0 (BMS-5P PATTERS FORMS (1005) S Boves 8-10-0 TOP POME 1970: Forethorne Clas S, Skephords Haat 7, Pa 1995: Rentemet: 6 11 10 IP Punitus 7-2 (III Medpulet); 11 zan. Bettlag: 5-2 Pudgitchematsi, 3-1 Skepherds Reet, 9-8 Tickariy's (III), 5-1 Ballyssgyr, 6-1 Hewitsonik Glen 10-1 Wide Support, 15-1 Motessu.

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Weekend fixtures | NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Blackburn v Middlesbrought

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Aston Villa v Wimbledon (4,0)

På VARE Trad verse Hucksell To v
Newcastle To; Hinckley Ath v Standord
AFC; Third-resent replayer Bridgmorth To
v Spelding Utd; Greenwich Bor v Concord
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Serverage; Bromsgrovs v Farmborough;
Dover v Stalybridge; Hayes v Kettering;
Hodinsdord v Gatterioual; Medicalited v
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BORTHMENE COUNTRES EAST LEAGUE Pressure Scheme Arminopa Well V In-fleid Main; Armold Th v Osset The Astheid Utd v Thackley; Seiper Th v Pickering The Brigg Th v Gissahoughton Welt, Hallam v Sherifeld; Mgitty MW v Liversedge; Ponta-rizet Cots v Density Utd; Salby Th v N Ferriby Utd.

Palace v Chariton Frimsby v Bradford fuddersfield v QPR pswich v Stoke Oldham v Man C... Port Vale v Norwick

Temerrene Swindon v Beiten (2.10) Second Division Blackpool v York ___ Brentiord v Preston -

Third Division
Barnet v Chester
Cardiff v Manstleid
Cartisle v Scunthorpe

Third Division Inverness CT v Cow PAI RAYSONAL LEAGUIL: Presider Div-lateur Bray Windra v Stigo Petre (2.0); Darry PRESERY USEON:
PREMINISTON CUP: With rounds Balti v
Lin brish; Coventry v Kendal; Gloucaster v
Ledds; Hertequins v Choltenham; Lelcoser v Lydney/Newbury (2.30); Maneley v
Wigton; Nottingham v Lon Scottlet; Ornal
v Bedford; Preston Grasshoppers v Northampton; Reeding v Saracens; Retherham
v Rosslyn Pic Sale v Richmond; Waterfield
v Waterloo; Waspe v Rugby (Sodbury).
Tesserrows Bristol v Blackhestt; Newcasle v Water Hartferood.

Hull v Doncaster
Scarborough v Fulham
Scarborough v Fulham
Wigan v Rochdala
Tonsorrow
L Orient v Brighton (12-30)
DR MARTEMES LEAGUITH Presider Dishalows Beldock in v Heleanwent Cambridge C v Wigroster C, Creitrastord v Asstord Tr. Chaitenham v Marthyr; Dr. Chaitenham v Marthyr

Staw Cross v SRIC: Startsugh v Ouserer, Thornkill v New Earswich: Watery Central v Westfield Hotel; Water Hull v East Hull; Wigan St. Judes v Wigan Rose Br. Wigan St. Patricks v Hallion Simms Cross; Woolston v Galeshead; York Acont v Fryston.

NATIONAL LEAGUE Herr First Di-

MAYTOMAL LEAGUR: Illians First Dis-sibles Mid Sinses v Briton (7.30); Noting-han v Covenby (8.0); Oxford v scient (8.0). Tosservews Guildford v Westminster (7.20); Liverpool v Cardiff (8.30); Stockdon v Ware (4.0). Second Divisions Aston v Bournemouth (7.30); Chessington v Flinishire (8.0); Northempton v Swindon (8.0); Shefflely Northempton v Swindon (8.0); Shefflely London (8.0); Sooth Wates v Derby (7.0). Tesservews London Towers v Flinishire; South Sank v Sollhuth (4.0).

Soum sank v admini (4.0).

Wromer Park Districtions Northampton v
Sheffield (8.0); Nottinghem v Sirmingham (8.0); Absorbda v Barking & Dag (8.30); Spettborne v Heriseden (8.0). Temorrows Ipawich v Thames Valley (3.30). Tomorrow

HERDLANDS BEDOOR CHAMPIOSERHPS (The Glades, Kidderminster): Preliminary reanns Group C (3.30): Bestion, Bross-grove, Edglaston, Harborne, Group D (2.0): Campock, Kidderminster, Strews-bury, West Strigglord, Temogrove, Pinels (10.30): Barlord T, Shourport, plus 2 qualifiers. SCOTTISH INDOOR CUF (8.30 today and tomorrow, Perth). NORTH LEAGUE North v Ben Rhydding (1.80).

(1.30).

BENT'S CLUBBE Basingstoks v Woking:
Bedford v Stevenage; Brentwood v
Chelmsford; Bristol v Beth Burces; Cambs
Nornads v Latchworth; Cheam v Turbridge
Welst; Einster Horness v Torbuy; Glos C v
Whitchgroth: Huddersfield v Cheaterfield;
lata v Tambon Vales, Maddenbead v Busbury; Mid-Busecs v Old Middenhightess;
Newbury v Indian Gym; Northampton
Saints v Oxford Hawks; Old Southendian v
Epsam; Old Whitgittlans v Tules Hill; RobInsons v Westbury; Stainest v Bracknali;
Wartfagion v Codon; Wednesbury v Burlor;
West Gast v WSM. **WOMENPS CLUBBL** Bedford v Bory St Est.

wommer's Unarden Bedford v Bury St Ext Cheem v Horstram; Coleyn Sey v Winning-ton Pic Sestocis v Meldenheed; Harborne v Dugley; Harleston v Copdoci; Llan & Llan v St Fagans; Portichedd/Firebrands v Saft; Wallham Forent v Crostys; Winnie-don v Wolding; Yate v Weston. ice Hookey

gupunu illaGUM: Besingstoke v Bracknell (8.30); Manchester v Ayr (8.40); Notting-hem v Sheffleid (7.5). Toesterroer Ayr v Notinghem (8.30); Cardiff v Manchester (8.); O Neopositio v Beatingstoke (6.30); Sheffleid v Bracknell (8.30). Shifflaid v Brastoren (c.a.)

Promume LEAGUTE Guildord v Kingston (s.d.); Pelerhorough v Slough (5.50); Tel-tord v Medway (7.50). Tresorrous Kingston v Stough (5.45); Medway v Guildord (S.15); Pelestorough v Tellord (5.50); Soll-hull v Seindon (7.0). Ron Cox predicts victory for Borders raider in the Betterware Cup Handicap Chase at Ascot

Major looks all set to ring the bell

Hawick trainer, plundered a whole string of jump racing's big prizes with classy chasers like Fighting Fit.

But there is a revival in the Borders area and at the fore-front is Major Bell, who travels south to Ascot today with a leading chance in the Betterware Cup Handicap Chase.
Trained by Alistair Whillans near Hawick, Major Bell lost his unbeaten record over Go Ballistic has a good refences when he journeyed to Ascot last month. But it required the considerable tal-ents of the well-handicapped fences when he journeyed to Ascot last month. But it required the considerable talents of the well-handicapped Strong Promise to deny the Scottish raider, who maintained his improved form with a battling four lengths. with a battling four lengths

That race, the First National Bank Gold Cup, was over two miles and three furlongs and Major Bell will appreciate the step up to three miles today. He showed useful

cluding a lucky success at Chepstow — and would have been a five lengths winner Pleasure Shared was barely

lockey, is injured but Major Bell will get every assistance from the saddle with Norman form would probably be good Williamson deputising, and if enough today.

the ground remains on the Excuses we the ground remains on the fast side that will be no problem.

Excuses were made for Trainglot after his lack-lustre display behind What A Ques-

Under a vintage ride from Richard Dunwoody in this race last year, Unguided Mis-Sile railled to beat Rough is weighted to do so again, but if this were a handicap he higher in the ratings now, but a smooth win at Haydock on Pleasure Shared.



Williamson . . . double chance | season.

1,45 Pleasure Shared

The versatile Inchcailloch, years have passed since Ken Oliver, the veteran fences, was ridden by Dunwoody to a three and a half lengths victory over Go Bal-listic at Ascot in November and followed up in a little race at Sandown last week.

He could still be well handicapped, but on 10lb better terms Go Ballistic is pre-ferred this time, particularly

the top weight seems to face a tough task over a trip which may stretch his stamina.

Although Dexira Dove will Hennessy, he is likely to find one of the up-and-coming types too strong for him, no-tably Major Bell (2.20).

form over hurdles at the longer trip, notably when running What A Question to a length at Aintree last year.

Major Bell reeled off five wins over fences — albeit including a luster speaks of the control of the long walk.

here last time with Strong Promise out of the way. Brian Harding, his regular in the Letheby & Christopher

tion at Newbury. He had readily beaten the Irish mare at Wetherby, and

A 7lb penalty may not be enough to anchor Make A Stand (1.10) in the Mitte Group Kennel Gate Novice Hurdle, although there are one or two "dark horses" here who could test Martin Pipe's front-runner. Perfect Pal, in particular, is one to

It will be interesting to see dler Oh So Risky fares against stronger opposition on his second start over fences in the Book Of Music Novice

Or Royal, Martin Pipe's expensive French purchase, could be ton class but might count be top class but might need soft ground sed it can need soft ground sed it can be need soft ground sed it can have need soft ground sed it can be need soft ground sed it can have need soft ground sed it. "If you want to sell ald. "If you



Cup target . . . Unguided Missile (left), winning at Haydock last month, bids to follow up at Ascot today

"He threw a splint before the Cheltenham Bumper

and Richard said he blew

up where the second last

hurdle would be. But he's a

fine, big horse, and today's

runner-up is a very good

Agistment's next run
may be the Challow Hurdle

at Newbury next Saturday.

Moorcroft Boy heads Welsh National weights

top weights defecting, leav-ing Moorcroft Boy, last sea-son's Scottish National win-BLMONT KING has ing Moorcroft Boy, last season's Scottish National winner, heading the list with list 7lb.

yesterday's declaration | March, was given a fine | urged his mount for an-stage with the original five | ride by Richard Dunwoody | other effort and he gained in the EBF Novice Hurdle at Uttoxeter yesterday. Despite his impressive

credentials, the five-year-old was sent off 5-2 second for next friday's Coral Neelsh National at The Tote make Kim Bai-Chepstow.

Paul Nicholls's gelding their market leader at 9-2, put up a trememdous performance on the Welsh mont King and Fellow from the market at 6-4 on.

Having been sent to the front by Dunwoody approaching the fourth from proaching the fourth from the fourth from

the upper hand close home to score by half a length. Jimmy FitzGerald, the

gelding's trainer, explained that Agistment gives few clues as to his abilities on the home gallops.
"He's the worst horse I

Haydock runners and riders

have got at home and the best horse I have on the

Bobby first win for Grant

HRIS GRANT, former top northern jockey, saddled his first winner as a trainer when Bobby Grant landed the Levy Board Intermediate Flat Race at Hexham yesterday.

The Northumberland track

was also the venue where Grant rode his first winner back in 1977.

Bobby Grant, named by owner John Thompson after his trainer, was sent off at 9-1 and beat Magpie Melody by two and a half lengths under Peter Niver. Peter Niven.

Grant, who partnered 788 winners during his career in the saddle, said: "I always enjoyed riding round here but

this has given me a good feeling as well.

"With a name like that I told Mr Thompson that the horse was handicapped before he started major." he started racing." The 40-year-old, who took

out his licence six weeks ago, has 10 horses in training at his establishment at Wolver-ston in Teesside.

Before training on his own account he assisted wife Suc at her point-to-point yard after he gave up riding two and a half years ago.

It was not such a happy day for trainer John White who was fined £1,000 by the Jockey Club disciplinary committee for "failing to exercise

White was penalised following a lengthy inquiry into his handling of the six-

year-old Flying Eagle. He had been called to answer charges concerning leaving his yard last April and his alleged failure to inform the owner of a tendon injury the gelding suffered during a race at Kempton in

After considering statements from White, who was legally represented, along with his vet, the Jockey Club committee found him to be in breach of rule 51.

White was judged not to have exercised reasonable care with regard to Flying Eagle whilst in his charge and was found not to have by neglecting to inform him of the reason for resting the

• In view of the uncertain Dunwoody had earlier

Ascot card with guide to the form

2.50 Hajor Bell 2.50 Ask Yes

12.35 900K 04 MUSEC ROYCE CHASE 2m 3f 110pin 612,280
101 900-31 OR 900 MSKY (28) (0) 0 Elevorth 9-11-10 PRoing
102 101-11 OR NOVAL (14) (0) M Pipe 5-11-10 A P McCay
103 15-11F1 SAMPLY DASHMAN (14) T Exambly 5-11-7 B Democraby
104 6 ROLSRIE BAROSK (11) M Weston 7-11-3 In M Bertin
105 11014-2 CHERVY-US LAD (12) (MF) M Hodorson 6-11-3 In M Servin
106 11014-2 CHERVY-US LAD (12) (MF) M Hodorson 6-11-3 In M Servin
107 32233 LUCKY DOLLAR (17) K Dollay 5-11-3 C Lieuwillian
108 32246 SHALIK (4) J Jonkins 6-11-3 N T Myss
108 32246 SHALIK (4) J Jonkins 6-11-3 N T Myss
109 SURVA SHALIK (4) J Jonkins 6-11-3 N T Myss
109 SURVA SHALIK (4) J Jonkins 6-11-3 Servin
109 FORM TIPS: Samply Desking 10, Or Noyal 8, Oh 8e Marky 7
1996 Senor III Motorati 6-11-3 E Zerolloy 66-4 (Dies Sessen Nock) 8 ms
100 Servin 10-15 Shalib, Bolthe Baron
100 Dollar, 66-1 Shalib, Bolthe Baron
100 Posses (Dies Dollar Cher 1) 10 to 5 est, ted and ind cher 2 out, woo by 4 from Orsun Ride (see 128) 12.35 900K OF MUSIC NOVICE CHASE 24 31 110/46 212,220 PORTET, DE-7 STREEM, BOTSCHOP DER CHI.

PORTET CHIEF STREET, DER ROYALL LIGH 11th to 5 call, feed and left clear 2 cult, wook by 4f from Dream Ridde (ren 120b)

(Troncolous - MONTHU) now ch. 550.

STREETLY DASSERBING Tracked leaders, led 650., Ten on strongly, easily, won by 10f from Ni66 Dee (thickerby David 10f) now ch. 565-511.

Cel 50 ROSECY: Chassed leader from Strd, led 751. Tax on well 861, band Dream Ride (sevele) by 4f (Aucot 2m nov ch, Gd-Fm). COUNTRY STARE Lied until blundered and unseeled rider 4 out behind Gokinn Helio (Doncaster 2m/10y nes ch. Gisfmi.
CHESTA Lake Chosed leaders, led 4 out to lest, unable to quisters, 120 2nd of 4 behind Scotlain Beauti
Chesta 7m nov ch. Gisfmi.
Liptory politikh in such, nidden 3 out, blustered lest, 30 and of 5 behind Ocean Leader (Southwell
Liptory politikh) in such, nidden 3 out, blustered lest, 30 and of 5 behind Ocean Leader (Southwell
Liptory politikh). **OF FLORIN 1 STATE WINDS A SERVICE, REMARKS CHAPT 6

1986: Call Replaceme 5 11 4 A P Microy 7—5 (P F Michalla) 10 mm

Betting: 11—5 Make A Stand, 5—1 Perfect Pel, 5—1 Behandan Senabbre, 10—1 Beweitje Court, Luminash, 12—1 Lopice Rest, Suprieve Charm, 25—1 Super High TOP FORM TIPO: Make A Stand S, Bewalife Court S Explose Rest, Suprome Charm, 25-1 Super High
PORM GURDS - WANER & STANSIN Made all and anon clear, given breather, quickneed again 2 out, ren on
Well, won by 3 from Measter Boroled (Sendown 2m1 Wy boy not, 6d).
BOWGLAFFE COURTY Headway 4th, led 4 out, ran on well, won by 58 from Supreme Genotin (Chepstone
Carl 10th mon hel, 50)
Requires BUSS'n in out-hover 10t, tailed out 18th of 24 behind Wilson Cr Which (Chefstonem 2m110) AH Flat,
GS-SI
SUPPERED CHARSIN Held op, ridden 5 out, washened 2 out, 221 4th of 9 behind Carolin's Crussder (Ascot Sm
Nov Hill, Gd)
PERFECT PALL Mis-division, only gaze from 40 out, 13th of 19 behind Maringo (Punchestown 2m NH Piet,
SG). TUP FURNIT SETSE Pleatening Sturred St. Transport 7
1908; Silver Wedge 4 11 7 J Cathorne 7-1 (C Sharmood) 11 pass
Bestings 5-2 Pleaterro Sturro, 11-4 Transport, 109-30 What A Duestion, 5-1 Blaza Assay, 6-1 Ocean Hawk, 11-4 Top Spirit Print Control of the Control of the

| 1 | 464" 17197-5 DEXTRA DOVE (R1) Sisson Earls S-10-0 | | | | | | |
|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 405 1111-12 BAJOR 963-(26) (3) A William 5-10-7 | | | | | | |
| | 406 P-11672 STRONG MEDICANE (9) (D) (MF) K Rabry 9-10-6 C Lieuwillyn 407 414-111 BHCHGARLLOCK (B) (68: en) (CD) J King 7-15-5 C Maede | | | | | | |
| E | 408 451-412 00 HALLMETIC (28) (CE) (EF) J O'Shea 7-10-0 A P McCoy | | | | | | |
| | 406 1275-1 75840M TMX (R1) (D) D Mcholeon 9-10-0 | | | | | | |
| - | S rusners . | | | | | | |
| | TOP PORM TIPE to Bulletie S, Hejer Bell ?, Ungalded Missile S | | | | | | |
| | 1996: Ungeiched Minsile 7 10 S it Decessoriy 7-2 (G Mobards) 9 mm | | | | | | |
| | Buttlings 7-2 Ungelded Missile, 4-1 Irrelealitech, 8-2 Destra Dove, 5-1 Major Ball, 8-1 Turning Tris. Go Beltide, 12-1 Travado, 16-1 Bradhury Szir, 20-1 Strong Madicios | | | | | | |
| | PORMY CHARGE - UNICHPORED MESSIE II; Chaped Lander, led Stb. Clear Led, especified, won by 41 from Cou Be Better (Heystock 3an hap ah, Gd). | | | | | | |
| | BROBICABLOCKIN Lock last, ridden out to beat Church Lee 19 (Sendown 2m81 1by box ch, Gd., Previous) last on well from 2 out, wor by 38 from GO BALLSTIC (gave Sta), (Ason 3m11byth hop ch, Gd-Fan, DEXTERA DOVIN Headway 4 out, weekspeed 2 out, blundered last, 34 ch of 11 belland Copen Hill (Mexicum) | | | | | | |
| | Section by top ot, Gol. BLAJOR BELL: Were 2nd 7th, every chance 3 out, no extra fiel. 4f 2nd of 8 behind Strong Promise (Accord | | | | | | |
| Į | 2015 10p top of, Go-Fm). 7096630 TROS in jough, led 2 ook, hit lest, ran on flat, won by 81 from Road By The River (Newcostie Sm http | | | | | | |
| | conserve parameters, and a bit, jot can, raid on man, more by a month on any intervent preventions of the control of the contr | | | | | | |
| 1 | Smittlyds boy of, Gd-Frot. TERAVADO: Chesed leader, every chauce until outpaced before lest, 44 4th of 6 behind Abselom's Lady. | | | | | | |
| ۱ | Exeter 2m11110y hep ch. Gd-Sth. | | | | | | |
| • | STRONG REDUCTION No Impression on winner from 3 out, 13 2nd to Stately Home, with BRADGUTY STAR Ignes 14th) 10 every 2rd (Sandows, 25m kep ch, 6d). | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2.50 PROGROSE VARIETCAP CHASE 2m CD/450 | | | | | | |
| ۴. | 501 F71161-1 ASK TON (21) (D) T Tale 7-12-6 | | | | | | |
| ٠ | 502 554-113 STORM ALERT (140) (CD) D Micholess 10-11-11 | | | | | | |
| | \$60. 402/204- SYRELIN (538) (CD) J. FitzGernii 10-11-1 | | | | | | |
| ' | 906 4-1911 ZEREDAR (8) (9) (1) K Salley 8-19-0 | | | | | | |
| | TOP FORM THER Ask Ton S, Zaredar S | | | | | | |
| - | 1895: Prest Street 8 10 1 J Onhorse 11-8 (S E Starroom) 5 746 | | | | | | |
| | Bettlegs 10-11 Aut Torn, 4-1 Storm Alert, 11-2 Zeredar, 7-1 Around The Horn, 8-1 Sybiffin | | | | | | |
| | POWER CHARGE - ASK TOOK Cheesed bender, led 4 out, clear 2 out, ran on wall, won by 271 from Nation | | | | | | |
| Į | (Newbury 2m11 http://ch. Gd). STORRE ALLERTE: Led to 3rd, bhuxdered, cot recover, talked oil from 4th, dietont 3rd of 4 behind Sound Max. | | | | | | |
| 1 | Rendered 2m rth Grill | | | | | | |
| ì | ZEREBARE Made all, claverly, won by 21 from Newholf Prince (Doncaster 2m 1 fby Acp ch, Gd-Fm). ARCOMO THE BOSEN Hald up, Chesad witner 3 out, no lapression, 51 2nd of 7 bening Goldan Spinner | | | | | | |
| Ì | Mountain Smill ten cit. Gril. | | | | | | |
| į | switch Lief, Johnson 4 cut, needed and tested repidity 5 cut, 342 2rd of 6 behind Villing Regiship (Netherby 2m ch 512, 1984). | | | | | | |
| | 3.20 CHARTS ROYAL SERVICE 24 110yds CALLED | | | | | | |
| - | 604 11221-3 PADDY'S RETURN (57) (CD) (SF) F Marriy 4-11-10 | | | | | | |
| | 802 210151- TEACHC MERO (221) (D) M Pipe 4-11-10 | | | | | | |
| 1 | 904 44-5(5) ALLTHIE DANCES (21) (D) O Shawood 4-11-2 & Bradley | | | | | | |
| | 605 052F1-4 ASSNEEL, SOY (7) (CD) P Hobbs 5-11-2 | | | | | | |
| ١, | 806 21- THEETAN (280) (D) Ledy Herries 4-11-2 | | | | | | |
| • | 807 3/35-11F MB PMRCY (21) (09) J (2007) 5-10-12 | | | | | | |
| | 809 240-142 MISTRICORTT (20) (D) (MF) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-11C Lieuwillys | | | | | | |
| 1 | 9 coulds | | | | | | |
| ١, | 70P PORM TEPS; Animot Nov S, Eakhne Hell 7, Peddy's Return 6 | | | | | | |
| | 1985: Priducil 5 11 5 A P McCoy 6-1 (M C Pipe) 8 rain | | | | | | |
| | Bettlieg 4-1 Tragic Hero, 9-2 Ashwell Boy, Peddy's Return, 11-2 Tibetto, Mr Percy, 6-1 Mistinguett, 9-1 Edding Neil, 25-1 Aftime Descer. Non Virtage | | | | | | |
| | POSES COURSE. PARIOY'S RETURNS; Hard ridden and every chance 3 out, weekened before lest, 171 3rd of 4 behind MSTREQUETT (rec 90), who best Hate Brocco 71 with ALLTIME DANCER tailed oil lest (Newbury | | | | | | |
| . 1 | | | | | | | |
| | 2m 170 Mai, groj. Henstierometris Lutest, pol jump well, beeten 181 by Mose (Ameri 25cs hal, Grij Traubajec Helido: Helido ph, beathway 3 cut, led lant strates, won by neck from Drosens End (Haydock, 2m hep | | | | | | |

| | 1996; Ungolded Medic 7 10 5 % Dunwoody 7-2 (G (Meteorite) 9 mm | 12.15 WHALLEMEN |
|----------|---|---|
| | Buttlegs 7-2 Unguided Missile, 4-1 Indicalliach, 8-2 Destra Dove, 5-1 Major Bell, 8-1 Turning Trix, Go Bellistic, 12-1 Travello, 16-1 Bradbury Star, 20-1 Strong Medicine | 4 0 ARAMAN MEN |
| | proper grants. Visit House Width: In Council justice, and 6th, clear last, second first, years for all from Council at | 2 · BI BAARS (15) J |
| | Be Better (Heydock 3m hap ah, Gd), secinCAMLLOCish Led Lest, ridden out to boot Chorah Lew 191 (Sendown Smith 10y bap ch, Gd). Previously kept on well from 2 cut, word by 30 from GO BALLISTIC (gave Sib) (Accord Swi10)rds hap at, Go-Fes). | 3 2 FALCON'S PLA 4 G INISK XEMSMA |
| | I Issot on well from 2 out, won by 32 from GO BALLISTIC (gave Sib) (Assot Sm110) the ch, Go-For). | 6 0 JOE SHAW (21 |
| | DEXTER DOVER Headway 4 cut, weekened 2 cut, blundered lest, 34 5th of 11 behind Cookie Hill (Membury | 7 PALAMON J W |
| | 3m28110y bop oli, Gd). BEAJOR BELL: West 2nd 7th, every chance 3 out, no extra Ret. 4 2nd of 8 behind Strong Promise (Ascot | 8 3 PANNOT'S REL |
| | 2m3110v bron oh, G6-Fm). | 10 SHUGAAOS |
| | TORNATING THESE in tough, led 2 set, let lest, rea on feet, won by 51 from Road By The Priver (Hewcestie 3m http: ch, Gal). | 11 TAGATAY M CI |
| фy | QO BALLESTIC: Perchimule start, led on bit appropriating last, easily, won by 81 from Straight Talk (Ascol | 13 60 WHAT JIM WA |
| | 3m110yde bop ch, Gd-Fra). TBAYADOs Chesed leader, greny chauce until outpaced before last, 44 4th of 6 bailted Abselonn's Lady. | 14 6 WORTH THE E |
| | Exister 2m1f110v lico ch, Gd-5f6. | TOP PORM TIPS: Pelcon's Flore Betting: 11-4 Falcon's Flore, 5- |
| rby | STRICKIE RECOGNIE No Improvision on winner from 3 out, 12 and to Stately House, with SPADSURY STAR (gave 14th) 10 every and (Sendows, 25m kep ets, Gd). | Arabian Heights, 14-1 Bassot. |
| 2111 | | |
| | 2.50 PROGROME MARRICAN CHAME 2m 19,455 | 12.45 southerest NOV |
| ID, | 504 F71161-1 ASK TON (21) (D) TTate 7-12-6 | 1 214101-1 OAT COUTURE |
| | \$60. 402/204- SYRELIN (538) (CD) J FitzGaraki 10-11-1 | 2 5 PLACK BROOM 3 2012//- CARROO GOL |
| | 504 1/5014-2 AROUND THE NORM (\$22) (0) J Sillord 9-10-10 | 4 ma/P-84 SLOTAMATION |
| | 805 4-19111 ZEREDAR (8) (5) K Balley 6-19-0 | 6 101-0 SPORIAKER (2 |
| | TOP FORM THE Ask Ton 8, Zeroder 5 | TOP PORM TIP: Out Contare 8 |
| _ | 1895: Prest Street 6 10 1 J Onhorse 11-8 (\$ E Starrooms) 2 114 | Battings 5-4 Oct Coxture, 5-2 Cor |
| | Bettlegt 19-11 Ask Tom, 4-1 Storm Alert, 11-2 Zeredar, 7-1 Around The Horn, 8-1 System | 1.20 WENTER HANDICAP |
| | PORTS GOURGE - ASSE TORR Change bender, led 4 out, clear 2 out, ran on wall, won by 271 from Naidr (Newbury 2m11 top ch, Gd). | 1 1151-35 MARCHART ME |
| | STORM ALEKE: Led to 3rd, billiowed, not incover, agend on from 4th, center and 6t 4 bitmin bound make | 2 21110-0 ELATICAL(14) |
| | Sandown 2m ch. Gd]. ZERSENAS: Made all, claverty, woo, by 21 from Newtest Prince (Concester 2m 1 fly hop cts, Gd-Fm). | 3 1214- BOGSE CAPTA 4 8200-81 West most (7) (5 |
| | ACCURATO THE MOSTILE Held up, chassed whener 3 cut, no impression, 81 2nd of 7 benind Goldso Spittmer | 5 32-6431 SHEEKO EDGE |
| | Revelopy 2m4 top ch. Gd). Sylect Link Led. Indeed 4 out, headed and tested rapidly 5 out, 34 2m3 of 6 behind Vising Registry (Wetherby | 5 32-6431 SHIBBRO EDGS 6 1550-6 WATCH MY LE 7 3035/4- ALBERTITO (04 |
| | 2m ch St., 1964). | TOP FORM TIPS: Shinting Edge S |
| | 3.20 Departs ROYAL SERBLE 2nd 110yds CA.550 | Bettings 9-4 Shining Edge, 4-1 Hou 12-1 Albertin. |
| | 501 11221-3 PADDY'S RETURN (57) (CD) (5F) F Marphy 4-11-10 | |
| | ec2 210151- TEACHC HERO (231) (D) M Pipe 4-11-10 | |
| н | SOS 44FRS NON VINTACE (7) (CD) IA Chepman 5-11-5 | Results |
| | 804 44-5450 ALLTHUE DANGER (21) (D) O Sharwood 4-11-2 | *************** |
| on | 806 21- TIRETAN (286) (D) Lady Herries 4-11-2 | |
| - | 607 3/35-11F MR PARCY (21) (D) J GREGOT 5-10-12 PARCY (21) (D) J GREGOT 5-10-12 | KEREFORD |
| | 606. 29FD-50 STATING NEX. (145) (D) J Spearing 5-10-11 | 12.50: 1, STAR SELECTIO (11-2); 2, King Rat (16-1); 3 |
| M, | 90A - Sel-15 Waterberr (50) (h) (m.) u rapmi-rando - m-1 | (8-2). 2-1 fav Mg/t Cky. 12 Machie) Tota: 27.00; 22.50, 22. |
| lm | TOP FORM THIS; Astron. No. 8, Saltime Hell 7, Factor's Seture 6 | Machie) Tota: £7.00; £2.50, £2. F: £31.40. Trio: £30.60. CSF |
| . | 1985: Priderall 5 11 S A P NcCoy 6-1 (M C Pipe) 8 raw | Summer Charm |
| | Beltiage 4-1 Tragic Hera, 9-2 Ashwell Boy, Peddy's Return, 17-2 Tibetes, Mr Percy, 8-1 Mistinguett, 9-1 Endoso Neil, 25-1 Africa Descer, Nes Virtage | 1.20: 1, MED DAY CHASE (5-2): 2, Total Joy (4-1); 8 |
| | FORE COURSE PARTOY'S RETURNS Hard ridden and every charge 3 cut, weekasted before last, 171 Srd of 4 | (50-1), 10-11 lay Deunt, 10 |
| | behind MISTRIGUETT (rec 90), who best Hartis Broszo 71 mith ALLTRIE DANCER tailed oil lest [Nowbury | Webber) Tota: £3.50; £1.10, Dual F: £5.80, Trio; £40.20, £5 |
| _, | 2m170y hat, grij. BESTREGUELTT: Latest, not jump well, bestes 101 by Mass (Ameri 25m bal, Grij | Fairy Knight, It sthebusiness. |
| | MESTRECORETY: Lainet, not jump well, beause for by Modes (Americans and, Col) TRACEC HING: Held up, beautory 3 trai, led last stricks, sum by mack from Dresma End Staydock 2m http:// | 1.50: 1, MAHLER, D West Columb (4-1); 3, day do Fran |
| | CA MA | tav Urban Lity. 9 ran. 2%, 7. (f |
| | and, addition to the second of the standard of the second | vies) Tote: \$5.80; \$2,70, \$1,30, |
| | THE TAIL: Prominent, class size 2 out, comborably, was by 71 from Ocean Hards (Standown 2m 110y nov hol., | \$15,40. Tric: £46,70. GSF: £* £498,00. |
| | Cd-St5. Security area, Restand from 3 and Sti 11th of 15 to Make A Stand (Sandown 2m1 tily top ted, Gd). | 2.201 1, CAPTAIN STO |
| | Qu-Sith. BESCHOOL BEEL: Dehind from 3 cat, 581 11th of 15 to Make A Stand (Sandown 2m1 lb); tep tod, Gd). BESCHOOLTH Held up, 3rd what left 3rd behind Zebadi (Newbury 2m1 lb); hdt, Gd). Previously led 4th, pushed out to best Maximore Towers 11 (Hamingdon 2m hdt, Gd). | 2.201 1, CAPTAIN STO Wynne (33-1); 2, Seettish B lav); 3, Northern Singer (3- co-lav Ashmesd Rembler, 1 |
| | OUT TO DOKE MERCHANY TOWARD IN PRESENTATION SEE MAY COST. | CO-ley Ashmond Rembler, 1 |
| | ● Edward O'Grady, the Irish trainer, has declared Sound | Wegmann) Tota: 038,20; £10,4 Dual F: £58,80, Trig: £80,50, |
| rk, | Man for next Friday's Castleford Chase at Wetherby as well | Tricest: £376.31. |
| = | as The Ving George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day but | 2.50: 1, WY MAR IN DURIDA (2-1): 2, Floot Cadat (Evers |
| | | |
| | Iam wall waten noth pages " of this staye in have to say that I | Control Process for the control |
| OT | l mov wal) miss hoth paces. "At inls sizes i'u nave io sav ingi i | Carley Tota: 23.50; 22.30, 21.3 F: 24.40, Tria: 212.40, CSF: 22.30 |
| T 10 | may well miss both races. "At this stage it is have to say that won't be seeing Sound Man in either race," said O'Grady. | F: \$4.40, Trio; \$12,40, CSF; \$2 sign Butterfly. |
| 8 | may well miss both races. "At this stage I thave to say that you won't be seeing Sound Man in either race," said O'Grady. "The entry for the Wetherby race was made a few days aso | F: \$4.40, Trie: \$12.40, CSF: \$1 sign Butterfly. 3.20: 1, BIDIAN TRACKS |
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| 8 | may well miss both races. "At this stage I to have to say that you won't be seeing Sound Man in either race," said O'Grady. "The entry for the Wetherby race was made a few days ago but we are not considering running him there at the moment but I will be having further talks with the owners." The trainer stressed that there was a still a slight chance that his gelding could go to Kempton. "If something untoward was to happen to One Man then we might change our minds," he added. • Rimbered for the first time — LINGFIELD: 2.10 Half An | F: E4.40, Tric: E12.40, CSF: E58m Butterfly. 3.20: 1, BIDDAN TRACKS: [5-1]; 2, Brogson Lady (5-4) loggorithe (14-1), 16 ran. 16 Tate: 64.30; (2-40, C1.70, 5) 15.40, Tric: E57.10, CSF: CR. 2.50: 1, MAY DANCE, N W 2.71; 2, Binterobhere Bard (3 (4-1), 8 ran. K. 9, (P Hobbs 2.10, C1.10, C1.80, Dusl. P. 2.11.54, Tricaste E20.50, GUADPOTI E2.10, PLACE JACKPOTI NOT Wan. 22.965.4 |
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| 8 | may well miss both races. "At this stage I to have to say that you won't be seeing Sound Man in either race," said O'Grady. "The entry for the Wetherby race was made a few days ago but we are not considering running him there at the moment but I will be having further talks with the owners." The trainer stressed that there was a still a slight chance that his gelding could go to Kempton. "If something untoward was to happen to One Man then we might change our minds," he added. • Rimbered for the first time — LINGFIELD: 2.10 Half An | F: E4.40, Tric: E12.40, CSF: E58m Butterfly. 3.20: 1, BIDDAN TRACKS: [5-1]; 2, Brogson Lady (5-4) loggorithe (14-1), 16 ran. 16 Tate: 64.30; (2-40, C1.70, 5) 15.40, Tric: E57.10, CSF: CR. 2.50: 1, MAY DANCE, N W 2.71; 2, Binterobhere Bard (3 (4-1), 8 ran. K. 9, (P Hobbs 2.10, C1.10, C1.80, Dusl. P. 2.11.54, Tricaste E20.50, GUADPOTI E2.10, PLACE JACKPOTI NOT Wan. 22.965.4 |

| 12.46 Oat Coulture 1.20 Ebloing Edge 2.30 Good Viles 1.20 Ebloing Edge 3.00 General Command 2.30 Ben Elger Colog Good to and, y- Deschas bibblers. Playmen in incidents after horse's name desch dept share latest, RH esting. 12.15 WIRRAL JEFFERILE HOVICE MURDLE only 2m £2,665 1 G ARAMAN HEROSTS (18) J Marche 10-12 | | 1 1/22511- VALIART WARRIOR (29-5) (CD) M Hammond B-11-12 P Novem 2 4122-11 GENERAL COMMAND (69) (D) G Richards B-11-2 P Carbinary 3 6-24075 CONT D'RESTRUMAN (0) (D) G Richards B-11-2 P Carbinary TOP FORM TET General Command S Betting: 4-7 General Command. 5-2 Valiant Warrior, 13-2 Card of Estruval 3 -30 THEE WALL STANDARD OPEN MATIONAL HUNTY PLAT RACK Sm C1,292 1 P- RADGESTS LAME (980) K Belley 5-1-1 J Religion 2 10-0 JUST OHE ONESTION (15) (D) J C'Nells 6-11-1 J Religion | |
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| 7 335/4/- ALBERTITO (666) (Ch) R Hollineled 9-19-6 | | TOP FORM TIPS: Bettion 7-2 Strong Mint 5-7 Breath Of Security 5-2 | 10-13 P. Midgley (3) 4 Badger's Lane, Bert Siger, 5-1 Billy Buckskin, 12-1 |
| Results | | | |
| HEREFORD 12.50: 1, ETAR SHLECTION, E Husband (11-2); 2, King Rat (16-1); 3, Desirectone (8-2). 2-1 fav MgN City, 12 rar. 12, 4, (J Machiel Tota: \$7.00; 22.50, (22.00, 17.50, Dual F: 531.40. Trio: \$30.60. CSF: £52.68. NR: Suprame Charm. 1.20: 1, RED DAY CHASSER, J Ceborne (5-2); 2, Total Joy (4-1); 3, Kestadago (50-1); 10-11 lav Dayal. 10 ran. 10, 4, (P Webber) Tota: \$2.50; 51.10, \$2.00, \$2.40. Dual F: \$2.50. Trio; \$2.00, \$0. CSF: \$12.65. NR: Fairy Knight, Insthebusiness. 1.50: 1, MARHLER, D Waish (100-30); 2, Colovall (4-1); 3, Kest de France (50-1), 2-1 tav Urban Lily, 9 ran. 27, 7, (N 14850n-Device) Tota: \$2.50. Tric, \$20, 20, CSF: \$18.57. Tricast: \$2.50: 1, MARHLER, D Waish (100-30); 2, Colovall (4-1); 3, Kest de France (50-1), 2-1 tav Urban Lily, 9 ran. 27, 7, (N 14850n-Device) Tota: \$2.50. 12, 70, 61.30, \$2.60. Dual F: \$2.50: 1, CAPYAIN STOCKFORD, S Wynne (32-1); 2, Seottlah Esmidi (3-1 Colav), 3, Horthern Singer (3-1 Colav), 3-1 Colav Ashimoda Rambler, 11 ran. 4, 6, (P Wegmann) Tota: \$2.62.50.61.20, \$7.70, \$1.40, \$0. Dual F: \$2.50.50. CSF: \$130.75. Tricast: \$278.31. 12.50: 1, SHAMAN IN DEREDALK, E Murphy (2-1); 2, Floot Caded (Everns Iso); 3, Senettian Westsing (3-1), 12 ran. Ns. 11, (B Carrly) Tota: \$2.40, CSF: \$2.50, Nt: Person Butter (14-1), 18 ran. 15, 16, (M P)e); 100: \$2.40, \$1.00. CSF: \$1.00. Dual F: \$1.00. \$2.00. \$1, MAY DAMCER, N Williamson (5-2); 2, Shebrochhoom Bard (3-1); 3, Salley (4-1), 8 ran. K. 9, (P Hobbs) Tota: \$2.50. \$2.20, \$1.10, \$1.50. \$0. Dual F: \$1.50. \$1.00. \$1.00. \$1.10. \$1.00. \$1.10. \$1.00. \$1.10. \$1.00. \$1.10. \$1.00. \$1.10. \$1.00. \$1.10. \$1.00. \$1.10. \$1.00. \$1.10. \$1.10. \$1.00. \$1.10. \$1.00. \$1.10. \$1.10. \$1.00. \$1.10. | HEXHAME 12.30: 1, QATTARA, G Cabill (6-1): 2, Electic (16-1): 3, Passan (1-2 lay): 11 ran. 6, 2 (W McKeown) Tota: 28.50; (22.0): 28.90. 11.90. Duel P: E33.50. Trio: 24.40. CSF: 23.70. Non Runners: Dana Point, Mathan. 1.000: 1, PAPMENESHON, A Dobbin (3-1): 3, Secanbleter (6-4 lay): 3, Beaton Men 33-1): 15 ran. 8, 28. (G Richards) Tota: 23.90; 22.70. Pt. 10, E32.90. Dual F: 23.50. Trio: 240.80. CSF: 20.00. NR: Peoble Beach. 1.30: 1, LENN DE FAMILLE, P Nivon (4-1): 2, Califo Gland (4-5 lay): 3, Streete (16-1). 8 ran. 5, 38. (D Uninn): 7.05.50, 52.40, 26. 11.10. DF: 25.10. Trio: 253.90. CSF: 27.75. NR: Bold Account Five Flags, World Without End. 2.00: 1, BRIMBON, D J Motian (14-1): 2, Kenno Salon (6-4 lay): 3, Hare Coenes Marbie (9-2), 7 ran. 6, 13. (D Motian) T: 214.20; 23.80, 22.80. DF: 123.10. CSF: 22.80. Trio: 253.90. 259. DF: 123.10. CSF: 22.80. Trio: 253.90. 259. DF: 123.10. CSF: 22.80. Trio: 253.00. 259. DF: 123.10. CSF: 252.80. Trio: 253.00. 259. DF: 123.10. CSF: 253.00. Trio: 253.00. 259. DF: 133.10. CSF: 253.00. Trio: 253.00. 259. DF: 133.00. CSF: 253.00. Trio: 253.00. 259. DF: 133.00. CSF: 253.00. Trio: 253.00. 259. DF: 133.00. CSF: 253.00. Trio: 253.00. Trio: 253.00. Trio: 253.00. Trio: 253.00. 259. DF: 150. Dual F: 222.00. Trio: 250. E30. E30. DF: 253.00. Trio: 253.00. Trio | 12.10. 1, Zimiri, S. Sanders (5-1; 2, Naght Scaptre (4-6 isv); 3, Newer Goof Mover (11-2), 10 ran. Hd. 12 (J Toller) Tolt: 05.50; 13.0, (13.0) Cani F: 15.40. Trio: F0.70. CSF: E3.05. 12.46; 1, ZUMO FLYER, Mr. A Perrett (16-1); 2, Statised (9-2); 2, Zaside (10-30 isv.), 12 ran. Shid. 1, (A Moore) Tole: 25.20. E7.10. E1.40. C1.60. Doubl F: 057.10. Trio: 114.40. CSF: E22.28. 2.15: 4, HEAVERLY MSSS, S. Sanders (9-1); 2, Malbourne Princess (11-4); 3, Threesign (9-4 in-14-v), 5 ran. 2, 18 (J) Bridgary Jose: E5.80: E2.19, 61.70. Doubl F: C18.80. CSF: C27.55. NFF Figlia. LASt 1, E00.10 EFFORT, Willyan (10-1); 2, Step On Degres (11-1); 3, Sharp large (20-1), 4-1 faw Mijas. 14 ran. 15. nk. 18. Cumingham-Brown) Tota: C12.30; 54.20. Doubl F: 524.50. Trio: 122.80. C35.20. Double Fire Call Trio: 122.80. C35.20. Double Fire C35.20. C35.20. Double Fire C35.20. Trio: 122.80. C35.20. Double Fire C35.20. Double Fire C35.20. Trio: 122.80. C35.20. Double Fire C35.20. Trio: 122.80. C35.20. Double Fire C35.20. D | (14-1), 7 ran. 5, 5 (Miss H Knigaro T. E3.40; 17.70, E2.00. DF: 12-60. GSF: 17.80; 17.70, E2.00. DF: 12-60. GSF: 17.80; 23.40; 4, 5 TORRECUTTER, R Hughes (9.44); 2, Bery Bistocorey (7-1); 2, However Control (6-1); 14 ran. No. 12 (M Channon) Tors: C2.40; C1.10. C3.50, C3.20. Duel F: C13.00. Tro: C97.00. C55: C16.82. NR: Naningare, Northern Digmond. 2.40: 4, 12-10. E1.00. C3.50, C3.20. Duel F: C13.00. Tro: C97.00. C55: C16.82. NR: Naningare, Northern Digmond. 2.40: 4, 12-10. E1.00. C3.50, C3.20. Duel F: C3.00. Duel F: C3.20. C56: C16.00. NR: Naningare, Northern Digmond. 2.40: 4, 12-10. E1.00; 15-40. NR: Naningare, Northern Digmond. 3.40: 1, 4-10. A c10. 13. (4 (Alner) Tors: C8.00. Duel F: C2.20. C56: C10.10. 3.10: 1, COVERDAL E LARES, Mr P Murray (9-2); 2, Misjore Laguery (8-1); 3, Berten Wilson (1-1); 17 ran. 5, 18. (Mrs. S. Smith) T: C4.20. C56: C3.55. Tricest: 0301.54. 2.00. C2.00, L7.80. Dr. C17.76. Tric: C35.40. C57: C35.40. |

Pearce takes charge as door opens for new Forest regime

lan Ross

TUART PEARCE began the transformamanager yesterday when, a day after Nottingham Forest had accepted the resignation of Frank Clark, he agreed to take charge of the Premiership's bottom club in

a caretaking capacity.
The 34-year-old England full-back agreed to undertake one of English football's least attractive jobs, albeit initially on a trial basis. He will be in the hot seat for the Christmas and New Year programmes, a crucial period which could termine whether Forest are

Pearce said he intends to mer Forest favourits, return player performs on a football have preferred to take over a eview his position in midto the City Ground from Manpitch. But, if he felt that me team at the top of the League review his position in midest's protracted takeover battle will have been sortium led by the local bustnessman Sandy Anderson, the choice recommended by Forest's current board of directors, was given a clear run after the rival group, headed by the Monte Carlo businessman Lawrie Lewis, withdrew

for 24 hours to consider the invitation to succeed Clark, he obviously decided to ac-cept some time on Thursday because later that day he set in motion a deal which yesterchester City on a month's

Pearce has made no secret resolved. Yesterday the con- of wanting to move into manplaying career but he is concerned that by taking on the role of player-manager he may jeopardise his international career. "Make no mistake, the Eng

land situation is of uppermost importance to me," he said. "I have made that quite clear. Don't pay any attention to the fact that I retired for a week or so in late summer.
"I am hoping that Glenn Hoddle is flexible, and I am sure that is the case. He is

"This has got to be one of

being the manager of Notting-

problem, then it is something

Pearce stressed that he

would consider taking perma-uent charge only if he

about his international future.

today, are three points adrift in bottom place and without a league win in 16 games, a Pre-

Forest, at home to Arsenal

would have to address."

ham Forest, with its full-time "The chairman (Irvin

> position. "I have a lot of

with no problems off the pitch, but that is not the case. Korn] rang me and asked if I would be prepared to take on the challenge until a new consortium is in place at the club. I have told him that, if I feel it is affecting my football, I will see him eavity and discuss my

this club and will do my best to get them out of trouble. But it is down to the players. They have responded in the last few games when we have played a in the same way, we have got



Taking it on the chin ... Pearce in Forest's hot seaf RAVE

Korn revealed that Clark's | final art as Forest's manager was typically generous — he recommended that Pearce should replace him. "It was Frank's idea to keep it in the family in terms of appointing feels he can cope with all that is involved, then he is going

Nigel Clough, a former Eng-land international, is not expected to face Arsenal this afternoon. He left Forest for Liverpool in 1993 before join-ing Manchester City earlier

this year.
"I feel this is the best way
forward for both parties,"
said City's caretaker manager the lad at this club and this

ahead of the game

Soccer Diary

Neil Robinson

Gascoigne throws himself at the mercy of Beechy Colclough and now, eight weeks later, we have firm evidence that the shrink-wrapping has worked. Not only has Gazza given up beating Shezza, but he has become a pussy-cat on the field as well. In-deed October 26, when he received his fourth yellow card of the season, may go down as the last time any-

But niceness comes at a price — and in Beechy's case a pretty hig one. Gazza has now gone eight games without sinning — and eight games last 720 minutes — and Beechy usually charges £1,400 a session over nine weeks — and eight sessions make £11,200. That's £15.56 for every minute that Gazza's

SPOTTED in Stockport County's programme for last Saturday's game against Peterborough. Stockport County would like to thank everyone con-nected with the High Peak Hatters for their inedible support." You what?

As if it isn't intriguing enough that Mathias Svensson, Portsmouth's new striker, has been replaced at his old club Elfsborg by a Swedish porn star, it turns out that the gentleman in question is called Moses and was once close to joining Raith once the club's Calvinistic relaxed about that sort of thing and are rumoured to

new post-war history of Burnley Football Club the briefest and most intriguing entry concerns Anthony Woodworth, goal-keeper. His story begins by signing professional in 1985, continues with his only game — a 6-0 defeat at home to Hereford — in 1986 and ends with departure in 1987. He never played professionally again. Yester-day he was not responding to questions about his glorious career at Burnley Police Station, where he now sports a safer pair of hands as a detective.

THOSE old enough to remember Robin Friday, the legendary Cardiff and Reading striker, will rejoice that he has found new fame six years after his death aged 38. Super Furry Animals, those trendy Welsh rockers, have made it to No. 1 in the Indie. charts with their tribute song, The Man Don't Give A F***, whose cover pictures Friday giving the V-sign to an unseen keeper he had just scored against. The V-sign was a bit of a trademark, along with drink, drugs and visits to police

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drugs and visits to ponce cells.

"He was the superstar of the suburbs, the one who made George Best look like a lightweight," says Paul McGuigan, a non-playing associate of SFA and full-time member of Oasis.

F Nottingham Forest want to draw a moral from their week of turbulence, it is "don't mess with Gedling Town Under-ris". The seeds of their undoing were sown when the junior club's secretary Teresa Swift wrote to Forest and Notts County, who are 23.75 million in debt, ask-ing both clubs to get their players to autograph a ball. The intention was to auction it to raise cash for a schoolboy soccer tournament. County obliged, Forest demanded £20. How mean can you get? No won-der Frank Clark walked

AND still on the Trent, Stuart Pearce's first team talk today should be interesting if some of his previous efforts as captain are anything to go by. His address to the troops before last season's Uefa Cup game in Auxerre finished with a stirring call to arms:
"Remember, you're all
English, you're better than
them."

That went down particularly well with Bryan Roy (Dutch), Scot Gemmili (Scottish), Alf Haaland (Norwegian) and David Phillips (Welsh).

David Lacey examines the Premiership's four-match holiday programme which could sort out the probables from the possibles among the title pretenders The thrill of the race starts here

HERE is every pros-pect of a thrilling fin-ish in the Premiership this season. The title race will not be all over by Easter, let alone Christmas, but the next 12 days should begin to sort out probables from possibles among the posse of

There has not been a full There has not been a nun Premiership programme for two weeks but the pre-Christ-mas lull has still produced some significant results.

The Liverpool attack has savaged two of the lamer ducks, Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest, and taken Roy Evans's team to the top October. Newcastle United on the other hand, could only draw at Forest and Tuesday's 2-1 defeat by Coventry City, another struggling side, has left Kevin Keegan facing the prospect of losing touch over the four-match holiday

Arsenal, now lying second but with a game in hand, are still sitting pretty. Wimble-don, often more impressive away from Selhurst Park, will not be too concerned about playing only one of their Christmas and New Year fix-

tures at home.
Of the leading seven clubs, Aston Villa would appear to programme, Manchester United the easiest Everton, gradually getting their act together, will hope to be run-ning with the pack into 1997.

Monday's encounter between Newcastle and Liverpool at St James' Park should et the tone nicely. Arsenal, who were winning at the City Ground when Forest were a good team, may be back on top by then. Either way New-castle's erratic defence will be pool in their present mood.

wise to presume too much. This has been a season of mi-rages and false trails. So far only Wimbledon have put together the sort of run that wins titles - 10 wins and four draws in the league — and they lost their first three

traps than usual. Arsenal reel off three Premiership victories and then have the worst of a 2-2 draw at home to



Dummy run . . . Gianfranco Zola hones his dead-ball skills at Chelsea's London training ground in preparation for today's Premiership match with West Ham

field Wednesday leave have been better designed to have they scored more than and Sheffield Wednesday With Covening to come, Mid-ter and West Ham away after McManaman bound and help United pick up the scent two goals in a match, the 4-3 away, Villa and Middles-destrough could end the they have met Arsenal and gagged as they win 1-0 at An- of the championship. Tomor-defeat at Newcastle when brough at home. Everton holiday stuck in the bottom Manchester United at home, gagged as they win 1-0 at An-field. Manchester United ap-pear to be heading for a 2-0

win at West Ham but the match ends at 2-2. Alex Ferguson's preoccupa tion with the Champions League has helped keep the contest open. Then again, as the fitful midweek 1-1 draw at Hillsborough demonstrated, United have yet to produc much consistency this season

and will be looking for a stronger continuity of performance during the hectic days ahead. The fixtures could not

offer injuries but the skipper Tony Adams is serving a one-match ban. Lee Obton is absent with audic trouble, so the 30-year-old Qavin McGowen is in line for his first senior appearance of the sasson. Forest's carretiver-manager Stuart Peerce will be hoping to sen this team's record run of 16 Premiership games without a win.

Tottenham v Sheffield Wed

Aston Villa v Wimbledon Mark Sounich makes his 19th appearan

Southampton v Derby

row they are at home to Peter Reid's hard-working Sunder-land. A Manchester United win, however, and the games against Forest and Leeds will hold out the prospect of a nine-point maximum before VIIIa visit Old Trafford on New Year's Day.
Aston Villa have to meet

Wimbledon, Chelses and Arsenal before then. Brian Little's team appear to have shaken off their autumn tor-

Yorke scored all three:

The form and fitness of the more prolific strikers is going to be particularly crucial this season — Robbie Fowler for Liverpool, Ian Wright for Arsenal and Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand for Newcastle where Mark Lawren-son will be drumming it into the rest of Keegan's players that defending is not merely a job for defenders.

should enjoy it, too, with home matches against Leeds, Wimbledon and Blackburn and a visit to Teesside in

Middlesbrough are clearly cast in the role of yule logs this year, ripe for ritual burning while those around them make merry. What with Emerson's absenteaism and now the mixture of injuries and fin which have led to today's game with Hlackburn being called off, it is hard to see Riv-

Last season the force stragglers on New Year's Day were Manchester City, Queens Park Rangers and Bolton Wanderers; they all went down. Then, as now, two points separated the clubs lying 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th. And Southampton and Coventry are still among the

This could be the time for shaken off their autumn for-por with four successive look better equipped for a called off, it is hard to see Riv-league victories but only once happy holiday with Forest erside enjoying much cheer. When Forest, who play Leices-

turn their faces to the wall

following Frank Clark's

leparture. Forest still take the field to the strains of Robin Hood riding through the glen but have sperit almost the entire sea-son being phindered by the rich. It is surely time to change the record.

How about All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth? Stuart Pearce's team, which it is for the moment are not going to gum anyone to defeat.

Team sheet

Cheisea v West Ham

The midfleider Tony Grant has an anide injury but hopes to be fit to take his place in an unchanged Everion side. Graham Stuart stand-by, Leeds have Lee Sharpe battling to recover from proin and calf

Spencer Prior plays in Leicester's detence after a minor operation and could be joined by Sweden's Ponitus Kasmark because Steve Watsh and fillies Writtow have been ruled out. There are doubte over the figures of the striker Steve Carridge (ribs) and Mazzy izzet (virus). Coventry are walling on filmes otherics or Garry McAllister (antide) and Noel Whelan (heavy cold).

chester Utd v Sunderland

Mank Spenich makes his fifth appearance of the season while the midfletder lan Taylor, central defender Carl Titler, right wing-back Farmando Nelson and strikers bullan Josephin and Temmy Johnson bawe all recovered from litress, Dons' stopper Vinnie Jones is set to roturn in place of Peter Fear star being on International doty last week for Wales. Dean Holdsworth, soorer of the Winner spaines Blackburth, is again expected to be on the bench.

TOMORROW

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Albion follow the trend by taking shares to market

WEST Bromwich Albion yesterday confirmed plans for a listing on the Al-ternative Investment Market that will value the club at £7.5 million. Albion will not be raising

shareholders — who invested share issue in April - to on Christmas Eve. Spora' Norwegian striker Staffer hersed is a certain starter alongside Teddy Sheringham, with Cluris Armstrong facing also weeks out after an aride operation. Garry Francis has yet to reveal it he will play his new 528 million defender John Scales. The italian midfielder Senito Carbona saces a last fitness test on a groin injury white Grahem byte looks almost certain to he out with a familiarity light. trade their shares more easily and makes it easier for sup-

secretary, said the flotation would also put Albion in a better position to raise extra process begun two years ago in Vienna on December 4.

to build a modern, commercially successful football club able to compete on and off the field," he said: Sunderland's flotation has been 2.7 times over-sub-

scribed, forcing share allocations to be scaled down sharply: those who applied for 20,000 shares will get new money from the flotation 1,000, although applications but the move allows existing for the minimum 100 shares will receive that amount £4.4 million in a separate Dealings in the shares start

porters who are not existing his comeback in Monday's investors to buy shares.

Dr John Evans, the club Bury. Cole has been out of action since breaking both shins during a reserve game at Liverpool on October 5. Roy finance if, for instance, they won promotion to the Premiership. "This continues the the Champions League game

Newell calls the law on Sullivan

IKE NEWELL, the Bir- | able attitude". Birmingham Winingham City striker had agreed a fee but Newell is who yesterday joined West Ham on a month's loan, has tant to take a wage cut. taken legal advice about criticism he received from the

Sullivan, commenting on the brown of Newell's snap up Newell after X-rays 5500,000 move to Bolton last revealed that land to wish the land to be snap up Newell after X-rays revealed that land to wish had week, is alleged to have said in oken an ankle in Wednes-the striker had an "unreason-day's defeat at Stockport.

The state of the s

"Newell is living in a fantasy world in that he thinks a host

Birmingham chairman David of Premier clubs are interested in him," Sollivan said later.

A N Other

FEW English footballers have equalled this honest midfielder for strength, staying power and the will to win. He was the piston that drove his home-town team to successes way above their modest station on the old LNER. Having been decorated in blue, he then underlined achievement in red the following year. Later he took holy orders and dabbled in ceramics before resting by a may tree.

Last week: Gerry Francis
(Queens Park Rangers, Crystal Palace, QPR, Coventry
City, Ranter City, Cardiff City,



Swansea City, Portsmouth Bristol Rovers).

Performance of the week: Paul Jones (Stockport County), whose early saves laid the foundations for Wednesday's famous League Cup victory over West Ham.

Scottish preview

Falkirk dismiss Bannon for fielding ineligible player

Patrick Glonn

AMONN BANNON yes terday paid a heavy price for an administrative error when he lost his job as manager of Falkirk. The club's chairman George Pulston took the decision as the First Division promotion-chasers faced up to a £25,000 fine by the Scottish League for field-ing an ineligible player. Bannon allowed the de-

trialist in a 1-0 win over St Mirren at Brockville last month. But Clark should not have played for Falkirk berejoining the Fifers.

Celtic will be desperate to make up lost ground after en-during a two-week lay-off, when they return to work. with a home match against

Dundee United today, But all
has not been quiet at the club.
The Pleare van Hooydonk controversy simmers on and reports of Tommy Burns's interest in buying a string of players, from Andy Town-aend and Craig Burley to Dar-retain our present lead. ren Jackson, arrive almost

Whether or not Van Booy-

pute with the club. He is nors ing a groin strain and, if it eases in time, he will be

The Parkhead side's lay-off because of postponements has left them 14 points behind the leaders Rangers, with three games in hand. United's one defeat in 12 matches, which includes a recent victory over Rangers, is a measure of their improvement under their new manager Tommy McLean and they seem cerfender John Clark to play as a tain to offer Celtic stout Rangers should encounter

something similar at Typecastle, even against a Hearts cause a year had not elapsed side who have not won in between his leaving Falkirk their last six matches. But it for Dunfermline and his is the latter's ability to pick themselves up against the Old Firm — they drew at Park-head three weeks ago which concerns the Rangers manager Walter Smith. "They've already shown

how difficult they can be in the big games," said Smith. They are a match for any-body on their day. We have a busy schedule over the next two weeks of the holiday period and our aim is to "I always proceed on the

basis that our main challengers will win their games in donk plays will have little to hand, so I consider we have a do with his contractual dis- five-point lead, not one of 14." hand, so I consider we have a

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Zimbabwe v England: first Test, third day

Hussain tucks in to set up a vision of victory

David Hopps in Bulawayo

not only re-affirmed his own survival qualities yesterday but asserted just as powerfully that England's restless tour of Zimbabwe can still reach fulfilment.
If Hussain's two hundreds

still reach fulfilment.

If Hussain's two hundreds against India last summer was significant for his personal achievement, stressing the harder edge to his cricket that should sustain him for many seasons to come, his unbeaten 101 here at the Queen's Sports Club served as a rallying cry for a team that has found success equally elusive.

A three-year absence from the first ball was unable to hold a difficult shin-high chance. Next ball up, Hussain survived an lbw appeal as he feel to the first ball was pread as he first ball was unable to hold a difficult shin-high chance. Next ball up, Hussain survived an lbw appeal as he failed to nick Streng's received.

A three-year absence from
Test cricket, during which
Hussain harboured fear that
his international career
might be over, has taught him
to value all the more the
private that do come close prizes that do come along.

England know the feeling, a succession of indifferent displays having caused increas-ing edginess. But. with two days remaining in the first Test, their persistence has



Run of success . . Russain celebrates a timely century ria by opening a bottle. On

ASSER HUSSAIN's and relying upon third century since this Test comeback not only re-affirmed a survival qualities and sully that England's leading tour of Zimbabwe can thought a chance of victory.

England resume today at that Paul Strang would emerge from it, and two more wickets, to add to Atherton's the day before, threatened to the chaos inflicted in unbeaten 51, extending a fifthwicket stand that has so far and Mushtaq Ahmed.

Thorpe, the one out-of-form batsman in England's leading tour of Zimbabwe can excess of 500, followed by a last-session assault upon Zim-

sain err, when he mis-pulled him, on 84, and Guy Whittall at mid-on, who is normally among the fleetest of Zimbabwe's fielders, back-pedalled rather than turned and failed to make contact.

"I know there is a fine line between success and failure," Hussain said. "Nobody needs to remind me of that."

Hussain might have made three hundreds in his last six Tests but his celebrations are not becoming any less emotional. When he on-drove Olonga in the penultimate over, he needed only three more runs but as good as ran four as his arm-nunching cel-ebration stopped alongside the bowler's bowling mark. And Olonga runs a very long

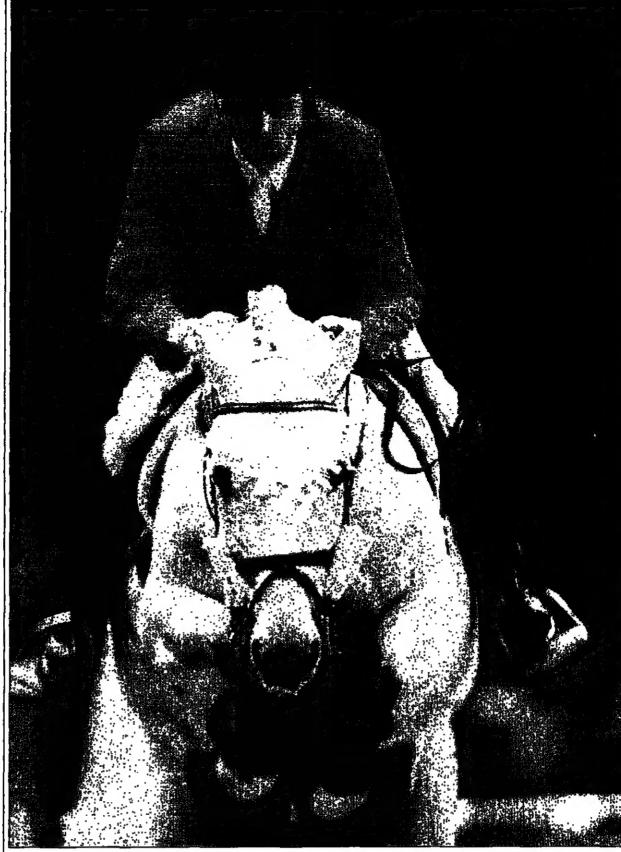
pitch was slow, the fields semi-defensive and, at 180 for match was in the balance. Hussain and Crawley, to re-call the phrase of England's team manager David Lloyd, had killed a demon. England's recent record against wrist spin has been so shaky that a wine waiter armed with a

six, departed to a horrible shock. The left-hander was drawn down the pitch by a googly he did not read and, Stewart's dismissal was umptre-assisted. He tried to sweep a leg-spinner from Strang of fullish length and was adjudged lhw. It was a marginal judgment whether be was outside the line but his front leg was at least a yard outside his crease and the ball was floating well outside the stump. The decision of the home umpire Ian Rob-inson was highly flawed, just as it had been when he rejected Strang's Ibw appeal

against Knight.
He had batted with great panache for a time but be-came England's only wicket to fall before lunch when a slower ball from Olonga de-feated him with in-swing.

suggest he is on the verge of a major England breakthrough liance with Hussain was one of immense seriousness. England subdued Strang, stoutly repelled the second new ball and granted no liberties until the close. They had finally got their act together.

Scoreboard



Dreaming of a grey Christmas . . . Carsten-Otto Nagel on Wienerwirbel of Germany rises to the challenge of the Christmas Carol Stakes, won by John Whitaker at the Olympia showjumping championships last night TOM JENIONS

Third Olympia win for Whitaker

OHN WHITAKER continued Britain's run of success at the Olympia Showjumping Champion-Dutch compatriot Jos Landrick Compatriot Compatrio Compatriot Compatri

lage Grannusch, winners of held off a German challenge fourth round to tackle five the major prize on the opening night and again favoured by the draw, were 0.1sec in Vink Masters, which offered by the draw, were 0.1sec in Vink Masters, which offered by the draw, were 0.1sec in Vink Masters, which offered by the draw of the prize of the property of some classy jumping after the hustle and bustle of the afternoon's events, was well won

Pinion Voici failed, Skelton and his nine-year-old were again faultless to scoop the

Rugby League

Gibson joins Leeds influx

Paul Fitzpatrick

EEDS RHINOS continue to strengthen their squad son and have signed Damian Gibson, a 23-year-old utility back from the North Queens-

land Cowboys.
Gibson, a former Australia schoolboy international, is Leeds's second signing from the Cowboys following the recruitment of the prop Jamie Mathiou last week. Leeds have also signed three players from Sheffield Eagles — Anthony Farrell, Dean Law-

ford and Ryan Sheridan.
Gibson, who has also
played for Newcastle Knights,
is described as "an exciting runner and superb cover tackler," by Dean Bell, the Leeds coach. "He has Optus Cup experience at full-back, centre and wing, and will give us a lot of options.
"I am certain he will prove

a great crowd favourite very quickly," he added.

wigan's latest signing Doc Murray will definitely be in the side to play St Helens at Central Park on Boxing Day in the Norweb challenge match. Wigan are still unsure how many of their men cur-rently playing rugby union will be available.

"I've come here to try and increase my chances of winning a cap for New Zealand," said Murray, who arrives from Auckland Warriors. Murray, who played for the New Zealand Maoris against the Great Britain tourists last autumn, left the club because he felt his chances of firstteam rugby were restricted by the presence of the former rugby union player Matthew Ridge. Murray said: "If I'm play-

ing well with Wigan, then I believe that I will have a great chance of making my pres-

The 24-year-old Murray will be one of three new signings on parade. Stuart Lester, a prop, also from Auckland Warriors, and Stephen Holgate, the former Workington Town back-row forward, might not be in the starting line-up but are expected to play at some stage. Oldham Bears have signed

The 26-year-old former Leeds and Workington Town centre or wing spent last summer Ships in London yesterday, sink and Bachus, his Amstersoring his third win in as many days, this time in a seven-horse barrage for the Champagne Taittinger Christmas Carol Stakes.

Whitaker and Virtual Vil
Dinch Compaired Jos Janby Nick Skelton and his four yesterday, sink and Bachus, his Amsterby Nick Skelton and his fillby Nick Skelton and his four yesterday, sink and Bachus, his Amsterby Nick Skelton and his four year Zalza.
For once John Whitaker and his signing of recent weeks and is string only six weeks ago, was the winner of a similar Master and Virtual Vil
Athenry and John Renwick field starters for this winnertake-all contest reached the 1991 Horse Of The Year Show.

Constant struggle for breath in Strang's stranglehold

Paul Allott considers the upward turn in fortunes of Zimbab :: e's classy leg-spinner

filled the air. Malcolm Ash- and now his performance ton, the England scorer, could almost imagine the photograph of The Shoulder of Mutton, his beloved local high in the Lancashire hills, coming to life among the mahogany and fig trees that surround Queen's Club.

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On such a day most seam leg-spinners. He is attempt-bowlers would have been ing to perfect a flipper and licking their lips in anticle to give his googly even pation, yet it was a good old-fashioned leg-spinner who mesmerised and dominated the early play. Paul Strang's place in the peck-ing order among the world's leg-spin bowlers is now elevated to No. 3, and the fact that the two above him are Shane Warne and Mushtaq Ahmed with Anil

sort more readily associated with Manchester than Bulawayo as grey cloud and cold drizzle Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and now his performance against England, represent a precipitous climb in self-belief and results.

Strang is highly self-ana-lytical and is aware that as yet he does not possess the full repertoire of mysticism which surrounds most top leg-spinners. He is attemptto give his googly even greater disguise. He is also an avid listener to Warne and others of his ilk. Most batsmen, he believes, can pick his wrong 'un but are left wondering how much it will spin or bounce.

A googly, bowled from around the wicket, thoroughly accounted for Graham Thorpe. He was plainly defeated in the kumble fourth speaks volumes for his ability.

In the first Test against Pakistan in October Strang became only the 18th player to take five wickets in an inulngs and score 100 in a inulngs and score 100 in

when the googly proves successful since the decep-tion is complete. England's exposure to

three leading leg-spinners in Kumble, Mustaq and now Strang inside six months, together with repeated doses of the wiles of Warne, have made the batsmer more confident against this type of bowling, although only Mike Atherton and John Crawley seem to be fully at ease in picking the spin from the hand. Nasser Hussain and Alec

Stewart, to a lesser extent, have each evolved sensible methods of playing the ball as late as possible and read-ing the spin through the air or off the pitch. Nick Knight, too, seems relatively comfortable, leaving only Thorpe with apparent problems. All credit then to Strang, who operated for most of the morning and afternoon with three or four close catchers clus-tered round the bat and continually induced errors from the entire upper

prove to be expensive

Cash's court manners may

THE chances of Pat Cash cause the incident did not occur in a match under the compete in next month's Ausauspices of the ruling body. tralian Open singles receded dramatically yesterday when several officials walked off court in protest at the behav-iour of the 1987 Wimbledon

champion.
Cash, who was playing a practice match against his fellow Australian Grant Doyle, allegedly abused an umpire after being warned for using obscenities during the game at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

during the match.
"The officials had donated

Tom Gullikson was reappointed captain of the US
Davis Cup team yesterday in readiness for their match in Brazil on February 7-9. Gul-1995 Davis Cup and begins his fourth year in the job, has selected Andre Agassi, Jim Courier, Todd Martin and the debutant Alex O'Brien for the

match.
Agassi, who has a 22-4
Davis Cup record, was a mem-The umpire immediately left the court and was followed by officials who had volunteered to call the lines

Bavis Cup record, was a member of the Cup winning teams of 1990, 1992 and 1995 while Courier was a member of the 1992 and 1995 teams.

Martin, who has partici-pated in seven of the last nine their time to help the players us ties, won the clinching prepare for the Open," said Rosanne Michie, a spokesman for Tennis Australia. No teamed up with Pete Sampras action can be taken against to take the doubles against the injury-ravaged Cash be-Russia in the final.

New fine and ban for Hill

Richard Jago

ANTHONY HILL, an Australian regularly in trouble on the professional circuit, has been suspended for three months — his second ban this year — and fined £1,400 for bad conduct at the World Open in November and this month's Mahindra International.

Mahindra International.

The world No. 9 now risks an automatic one-year ban and a fine of £2,000 if he steps out of line at all during 1997, yet he has got off lightly for violating the Professional Squash Association conduct code in Karachi and walking out in the middle of his match in Bombay, Provided Hill pays the

the first week in April.

Provided Hill pays the fine before December 31 he will be able to play in the British Open at Cardiff in

award provide timely fillip

Pat Rowley

T was not a bad week for hockey, led by the interna-tional federation's confirmation that 10 women's teams

Sydney upgrade and Sixsmith

will take part in the Sydney Olympics, an increase of two over the last two Games and four more than in 1980 when women's hockey became an Olympic sport. There will now be seven automatic qualifiers: the

holders, hosts and five conti-nental champions. The change should also make it slightly easier for Britain's women to continue to qualify.

There was a further filip
when Jane Sixsmith, who hopes to go on to Sydney, be-came only the second woman to win the Sportwriters' Association award for outstanding achievement in sport. The first was the judo player

The new-look England men's squad showed steady improve-ment during their first training session under their stand-in coach Jon Royce at Lilleshall Cannock were too experienced for them after the young squad had had only one day together but, after losing 3-0, they beat Barford Tigers 6-2 and Beeston 6-1.

Two forwards made an instant impact, Cannock's Rob Crutchley and Teddington's Nick Conway, who was called up only because Alistair

Boyse withdrew. It was a good week for Cannock as they also moved four points clear in the National League, which they won last season. They now want a first indoor title and at Kidderminster this weekend will strive to earn a place in the national indoor championship by winning their Midlands qualify-ing group today and then reaching tomorrow's final.

Results

Baskethall

MIRAL Toronto 95, MilwatAlbe 83; Chicago 93, Charlotto 72; Uzah 94, Mismi 87 (ott; San Antonio 115, Houston 191, Daltes 105, Vancouver 96; Washington 102, LA Clip-pera 93; Sacremento 112, Minnesote 105.

ORAFOSE BOWL INT'L C'SIGPS (Miam) Beach): Selected: Boys 13-18: Fourth round: A Martin (Sp) bt M Los (GB) 7-6.

Alpine Skiing

Alpine Skiing

MEN'S WORLD GUP DOWNNILL (Val
Gardena, III 1. L. Alphand (Fr.) Imin
54 fibro: 2. A Skeardel (Nor) 1.53.25; 3. K.
Unedirus (II) 153.35; 4. F. Vittainin,
153.34; 5. A Durillard (Fr.) 1.53.45; 6. F.
153.38; 8. F. Siyebi (Auti) 1.53.45; 9. H.
153.88; 8. F. Siyebi (Auti) 1.53.25; 9. H.
153.88; 8. F. Siyebi (Auti) 1.53.25; 9. H.
Norum IAuti 1.53.99; 10. W Persinceror (III
154.00; Alsen 42; G. Boll 1.56.25; 53, A.
Frontwealth 157.20; Downshill extractiones
1. Alphand 140pbi; 7. F. Strobi (Auti) 132; 3.
V. Franz (Auti) 116. Overall extractiones
1. Alphand 140pbi; 7. F. Strobi (Auti) 282; 3.
H. Kriber (Auti) 255; 2. Y. Sylora (Auti) 262; 3.
H. Kriber (Auti) 255; 2. Y. Sylora (Auti) 262; 3.
H. Almoul (Nor) 260; 4. Al von Guschigen
(Saitz) 231; 5. S. Locher (Switz) 215; 6. G.
Mayor (Aut) 267.

LAS PALMAS: Round & A Karpov (Rus)

v V Topalov (Bus), V Ivanchus (Ukr) v V
Anand (India), V Kramith (Rus) v G Kasparov (Rus) all dram. Standings Kasparov (Rus) all dram. Standings Kasparov & Anand dk Ivanchus 4; Karpov,
Topalov, Kramith 35.

CHALLESCE MATCH (Edinburgh): J
Revisee (Scot) bit K Arbeit (Eng) 4-2.

Mess Presenting:

POUR-DAY MATCHES (second day): No-bours Paidatan 259, Teamania 352-6 (J Cox 19 no.), Wessparetax West Indica 372-6 (J Lara 86, 5 Campbell 80), Victoria 354 (G Victoria 133, D Berry 80; McLean 5-48), SHESTRELD SHIBLD Birlishes (second day): Outensiand 450-6 (S Law 144, J Mather 91, I Healy 80no, A Symonds 50), New South Wales 190 (S Waugh 55; Bichel 6-56), Perth (first day): South Australia 231-6 (J Braybakar 73, D Lehmann 52) v Western Australia.

MHLL Boston 3. Tampa Bay C; Ottave 5. Florida 2. Philadelphia 5. NY Islandors C; Pitteburgh 4. St Lauis C.

LANDOUT (Mart 1907, 4, A) won Gruenigen (Sentz) 231; 5, G Locher (Sentz

Swigner 9: Annual St. Prenchuk 4; Karpov, Topelov, Krammik St.

HALLMANDE BAYCH (Edinburgh): J.

Rowsen (Scot) tr K Arhell (Eng) 4-2.

Cricket

POUR-OAY MATCRIES (second day): No-barb Peddatan 259, Teamania 322-6 (J. Cox 19 no), Wangaretta West Indies 373-5 (B. Cara 85. 6 Campbell 80), Victoria 354 (G. Viropani 133, D. Berry 50; McLeán 5-48), Maher 91, I Healy Stoc, A. Symonds 50), Maher 91, I Healy Stoc, A. Symonds 50, Maher 91, I Healy Stoc, A. Somonds 50, Maher 91, I Healy Stoc, A. Symonds 50, Maher 91, I Healy Stocker 50, Maher

Sport in brief

Motor Racing

recorders from the start of the 1997 world championship sea-son in an effort to avoid a repeat of the 21/2-year investigation into the causes of Ayr-his wicket when he set off for ton Senna's accident in the a run rather than when play-San Marino Grand Prix, ing the shot.

writes Alan Henry.

This is another major step towards improving safety," The Derby Storm have signed said Max Mosley, president of Lorenzo Pearson, a 6ft 8in the sport's governing body centre-forward who com-FIA. "The implications for pleted his college career at safety are very encouraging."

Brian Lara at last rediscov-

against Victoria in Wangar-

Cricket

ered his best form as the West Storm's development team in Indians rallied on the second the National League Second day of their four-day match Division. against Victoria in Wangaratia. The tourists were 319 for
five at stumps in reply to
Victoria's first innings of 354
with Lara's quickfire 36 from
70 balls the day's highlight.

Chess
Britain's top-seeded Nigel
Short made a confident start
at Groningen yesterday in his
attempt to regain his place
Boxing Day, writes Bob
Brisher. George Snow's 78ft
Brindabella was the first to
cross the line at the end of the
18-mile race inside the
harbour.

David Saker but the tourists said he should have been ruled not out because he hit

a run rather than when play-

spell in the middle session

when he carved his way from

But he was dismissed in

Basketball pleted his college career at the University of Miami last season, writes Robert Pryce. He replaces Dion Harper, who has been assigned to the

His innings featured a 22-ball | among the world's best grandmasters, writes Leonard Barden. Short is ranked No. 10 in the January 1997 Fide list and has been excluded from the All grand prix cars will be controversial circumstances. six-man Las Palmas super-fitted with accident data Lara was given out hit-wicket tournament which the No. I before tea off the bowling of Garry Kasparov leads with two games left. If Short, who beat his fellow Briton Julian Hodgson in a 48-move French Defence, does well at Groningen and in next month's still stronger Dutch Invita-tion at Wijk, he can regain the status he lost after his failed title challenge to Kasparov in 1993.

Sailing With less than a week to go to

the start of the Sydney-Hobart Race, the Big Boat Challenge in Sydney Harbour provided a dramatic preview to the line-honours possibilities for the classic which starts on Boxing Day, writes Bob

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The Guardian Cinteractive



Exile on main street Anderson prepares for cup holders



Taking over at the bottom Pearce in the hot seat at Forest

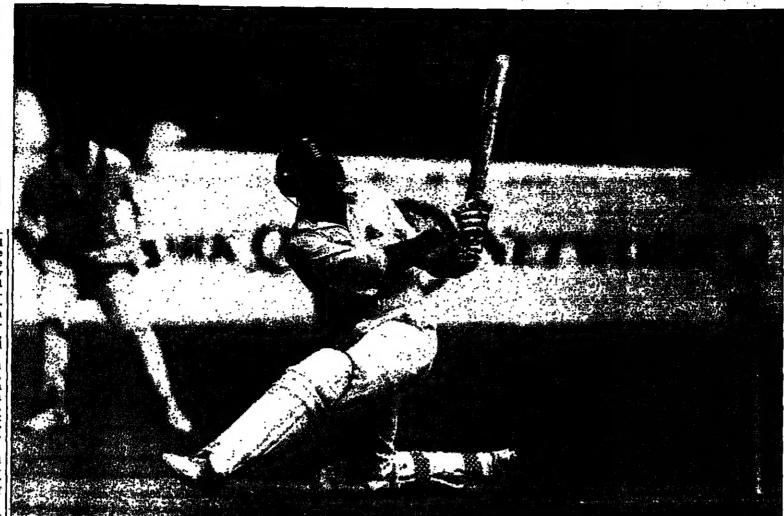
Saturday 21 December 1996 The Guardian

Hussain century rescues wobbly **England**

CENTURY from Nas-ser Russain steadied England nerves in the first Test against Zimhabw in Bulawayo yesterday when the tourists finished on 306 for four, only 70 be-hind. Hussain finished un-beaten on 101 and, with John Crawley also resum-ing this morning on 51, England are well placed

now to get on top.
"Our aim is now to get a good lead," said Hussain.
"So far we have not seen how Zimbabwe bat when under a bit of pressure. They were under a little bit in last Sunday's one-dayer and I didn't think they looked very comfortable."

Hussain and Crawley had come together with Eng-land wobbling at 180 for four against the leg-spin of Paul Strang.



Hot shot . . . England's vice-captain Nasser Hussain posts another boundary on the way to his unbeaten 101 yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: STU FORSTER

lan Ross on an unauthorised postponement that could cost Bryan Robson's team vital Premier League points

Depleted Boro walk out on Blackburn

■ A copy of the Collins Roget's International Thesaurus

and winners in the Guardian on Monday, December 30.

vill be sent to the first five correct entries drawn.

Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,842, P.O. Box 315.

Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday Solution

three Premier League points de-ucted for withdrawing at 24 hours' notice from their away

Set by Crispa

8 Developing a leaning for a

S Having a little gown in grey

demand a lot in the trier (10)

10 A joiner creating a row (4)

12 Fruit will be provided when

14 Think to mislead a supporter (8

15 Not one can get in there (7)

17 Following recent set-back, a fine man was discharged

20 Scarcity, but only for a brief period (8)

11 He expects hard work to

certain woman (8)

silk made (6)

Across

which has infurlated Rovers and their supporters.
Without consulting either

Guardian COMMINS Prize Crossword No 20,842

Name

Address

Premier League or Blackburn officials, the Teesside club announced that they would not travel to Ewood Park because

from bottom of the Premier-ship table, Blackburn one place below them.

Roget's

Thesaurus.

Given no support, getting tissues and breaking down

7 Attachment for a girl over the

to the Fertingson Road, London ESTR SET, nd at 164 Demnagete, Manchester MSD 2PR, whited at West Ferry Philippe Ltd., 285 West any Road, London 814 8NC; and at Telligid

13 Wild Australian or Roman

merrymaking (10)

See about dilatory

injured or iii, leaving only the Premier League was seven men with first-team experience available.

It is premier League was been positive to that a game has been positioned be game has been positioned because a club is unable to field the decision by Middles on, were deemed until to a team, and Middlesbrough are bracing themselves for disciplinary action. This may

> 18 A hazard in the underground Inflamed a politicien (8)

> 19 Confidential information put

about within cliques (7)

21 The man did some copying

22 Possibly four soldiers are

and made a pile (6)

responsible for the

Lepton Rephone 0171-278 2332 Telet 891746 (Guard G) Par. 0171-837 2114; 1071-833 9346, Talanhone agles 0171-811 9000

commotion (6)

24 Judicious manner (4)

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brough to postpone tomorrow's fixture with Blackburn Rovers has not been approved by the FA Premier League," a Premier League spokesman said last night. "The post-

ponement is therefore in breach of regulations and will be considered by a disciplinary panel in the New Year."
"We are ready to face an inquiry," said Middlesbrough's manager Bryan Robson. "We asked the league if they wanted to send an indepen dent medical team to the club this afternoon to check but they said no. We have sent them all the information we have, including medical evi-

dence. I have run out of play-ers," he concluded. "I just can't put a team out on Saturday." His Blackburn counterpart the caretaker-manager Tony Parkes, was unsympathetic and last night called for the eague to award the three

points to his club.
"It is a totally unacceptable situation," he said. "Every club has injury and illness problems and no one has suffered more than us but you are obliged to fulfil your fix-tures. We could now slip back into the relegation bracket, having been denied the right

to a game."
Parkes added: "It is difficult to know what the punish-ment should be but at this moment I believe we should be awarded the points. It's as simple as that."

Blackburn's anger was heightened by the fact that they were not officially informed of Middlesbrough's decision. The first they knew of the postponement was when a confused Rovers supporter rang Ewood Park early yesterday afternoon to say he had read the announcement on BBC's Ceefax service.

The decision could be con-strued as an act of open rebellion but Middlesbrough's 23 players, including Robson and his assistant VIV Ander-son, were deemed unfit to make the journey down to

"We have an absolutely clear conscience over this," said Lamb. "We have 17 fit contracted professionals. Three of them are goal-keepers and five have never been in the first-team squad,

never mind the first team.
"Of the remaining nine, two have made the briefest of first-team appearances so we have seven first-team aquad players fit. We felt the players we have available could not properly represent this club."

Back benchers

chief executive Keith Lamb is

Test of reality behind the **Twin Towers**



David Lacey

thing about this week's announcement that Wembley is to be the site of the new national stadium was that it took so long to state the obvious. Everyone expected it to win the vote. Details, largely financial, caused the delay.

Demolition work on the

present Wembley Stadium, which will raze everything begin in 1998. The new 80,000-seat stadium should be operat ing by 2001. Already the Foot-ball Association sees the new Wembley as the centre-piece of its bid to host the 2006 World

So far so optimistic, yet the briefest of glances at Wem-bley's history suggests that nothing will be as straightforward as it may have ap-peared this week. When the 1925 British Empire Exhibi-tion, of which the stadium was the centre-piece, closed amid massive debts one contemporary observer described the scene as "a vast white elephant, a rotting sepaichre of hopes and the grave of

Gareth Southgate could not have put it better. An esti-mated cost of £200 million already looks a mite conservetive and, even if this figure proves correct, the contribution from the National Lottery will still leave a shortfall of

Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, has spoken of tween £40m and £50m in the new stadium. But to judge from the time it took the FA. the Sports Council and Wem-bley to thrash out a leasing agreement, the building of Wembley Mark II may make your average pyramid look like a rush job. The present stadium, incidentally, was built in 300 days.

Even if the new Wembley arises on time it will not guar-antse the success of England's World Cup bid. That will be decided by Fifz politics, which are becoming ever more

labyrinthine. If, as expected, Lannart Jom replaces Joao Have-



Already doubts have been raised about the wisdom of rebuilding Wembley as a venue for both football and athletics. In its 73 years Wembley has seen greyhound rac-ing, speedway, the 1948 Olym-pics, Billy Graham and Madonna. But it was purpose built as a football stadium.

Alex Fynn, the former di-rector of Saatchi & Saatchi who has written several books on the commercial side of foot-ball and is consultant to a number of clubs at home and abroad, believes it would have made more sense to renovate the present stadium, leaving Manchester's new 60,000-seat affair to host the 2001 World Athletic Championships and the Commonwealth Games the following year. Fynn does not believe that an English bid for the 2008 Olympics is practicable.

"We don't need a national stadium when we've already got Wembley," Fynn argues. "National stadiums are built for one major event and only become viable if football clubs, like Bayern in Munich, or Roma and Lazio in Rome, then move in. The 1992 Olympic Stadium in Barcelona is already a white elephant. Nou Camp is still the main football

T could be argued that Wembley, a Barbara Cartland among stadiums, has been living for far too long on romantic traditions and that the reality is beyond renovation. But if, in trying to be all things to all sportsmen, th new Wembley loses the unique atmosphere which, in 1996 as much as 1966, confirmed its status as the world's favourite football ground, then something precious will

have gone forever. Sir Arthur Elvin, who began as an assistant in a tobacco kiosk at the 1925 exhibition, risked financial ruin to establish Wembley as the venue of legends.

Now someone of similar vision is needed just along the road from Neasden — Sir John Hall, perhaps, if Newcas-tle City Council decides ducks are more important than

Vandals dig up Orient pitch but Shilton game goes ahead

his 1,000th League game against Brighton tomorrow make sure that nothing will spoil Sunday's game." despite an attempt by vandals to sabotage his big day by dig-ging up parts of Leyton Ori-ent's pitch.

Orient's groundsman Char-lie Hasler and his staff spent he hasser and his star spent hours repairing the damage yesterday after the intruders dug up around the centre circle and in front of the main stand. "It's amazing what they did," said Hasler. "There was almost a three-foot hole in one place. It's taken us two days to repair the damage and get the pitch back in shape."

Hasler is considering standing guard at Brisbane Road

There could be further problems tomorrow if Brighton supporters try to exploit the publicity surrounding the game, which is being tele-vised live on Sky, to further

their campaign against the chairman Bill Archer and chief executive David Beliotti.
"We are talking about a
great occasion and it should not be spoiled in any way for Peter," said Orient's chair-man Barry Hearn, "I don't believe we are ever going to see anybody playing 1,000 League games again."

"Oh S**g!!! What can I get for Vicky?"



22 Hat makers read of (6)

23 Ablunder never to be receated! (5,5)

and astute (4)

2 Close tight (4)

24 Expensive unscrupulous

25 Buyable housing the single

26 Trying dress in front of a number (8)

may well find tolerable (6)

1 Time ain't for frittering, pail (8)

3 Hear sterling is to catch up (6)

4 The fool's into drink—It

offers some comfort (7)

Begin to approach outside

people with a note (B)

Music From The Motion Picture "Evita"

"I've heard so many good things about the film I can't wait to see it. Even Barry Norman was new-ing about her on the selly: called her magnificent, I think. I've heard her version of "Don't Cry For Me Angendina" and it sent abivest down my spine.
Plus them's a new song which Andrew Lloyd
Webber wrote expecially for her, called "You Ming Love Me" and, of course, "Another Science in



ded me of my brother in Aus every date it came on I cried. This has got all their chasics, including retection", which Tracy recorded with Mustive Allach, and new mixes of



She's incredible. She was a winger at the Brit Awards and the Grammies and bas hardly been out of the cherts or off the ratio all year. I know all the words to her rouge. "You Oughin Know", "Ironic". "Head Over Feet", "And I Really wan!" nd in My Pocket". She alls it like it is and good for her, I say



Rod Stewart
"If We Fall In Love Toniels" "Nobody sings love songs like Rod Stewart. What a voice, and he's had Count great love sough in the charge, all of which are on this record, "Lieve I Told You Lisely, "I Don't Want To Bilk About B", "Dountown Their," "Forn Transbert's Blues (Waltzing Matikla)", "You'm in My Heart".



He's brillians, Mark Morrhoop, He's had more his than anyone and they're all on this album. "Chary". "Let's Ger Down", the number one "Return Of The Mack", "Normy" and that lovely alow one "Trippin'," And in not just me who thinks so. He won at the Black Music Awards and the 160000 awards and I've rend that he's test above to exclude